

Jordan Times

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Hungarian leaders clash

BUDAPEST (R) — Two leaders of Hungary's ruling Communist Party clashed Friday over whether it should sign its own death warrant and embrace Western-style democracy as a new socialist party. Addressing a special congress of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, its President Rózsa Nyers urged 1,276 delegates to create a new, non-communist socialist party to fight multi-party elections due by mid-1990. The party's historical role was coming to an end after more than 40 years of communist rule, he said. "We need a new-style socialist party which is a successor but not a simple continuation of the party... the new party should not be a communist party," he said. But Károly Grosz, who ousted veteran leader János Kádár as general secretary in May 1988 and led the party until his post was devalued in June, defended communist ideals. "It is not the progressive values of the workers' movement that we have to deny, among these the ideals of communism, but rather the practice that discredited them," Grosz said. Nyers is backed by Prime Minister Miklós Nemeth and reformist State Minister Imre Pozsgay. With Grosz, they make up the four-man party leadership. Nemeth has said he is prepared for the party to split rather than compromise with hardliners.

Greece faces fresh election

ATHENS (R) — Greece's coalition government will resign Saturday unless it has fulfilled its mandate by arranging the trial of ex-Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and five of his ministers. The unprecedented Conservative-Communist coalition came to power in July with the sole objective of lifting immunity from prosecution for former Socialist ministers alleged to have been involved in a series of scandals and sending them to trial. A government spokesman said the three-month-old government will now hand in its resignation to President Christos Sartzetakis. Both coalition partners said they would reject any idea of trying to form a new government and national elections are due on Nov. 5. Spokesman Athanasios Kanioglou said. Under the constitution, Sartzetakis must offer the leader of the three main parties, including Papandreu, a chance to try to form a government before calling the second national election this year. Papandreu is the only leader who may accept the offer and use his three-day period to try to woo the communists into a left-wing coalition government. The Communists, who with 28 seats hold the balance of power in the 300-seat parliament, have said they will reject any such overture and will insist on elections.

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2 killed, 16 injured in Gaza, West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A West Bank teenager shot in a clash with Israeli troops died Friday and another was shot dead and 16 Palestinians were wounded in clashes in the Gaza Strip. Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip stopped work for the second day in response to a five-day strike call by the underground leadership of the 22-month-old uprising. Israeli Radio said uprising activists would lift the strike Saturday to let residents to buy food. Staff at Arab Jerusalem's Mokassed hospital said Mohammad Ishami, 17, shot Thursday in the village of Battir, died of his wounds. Police said they detained eight Jewish settlers for questioning Friday after the armed group began shouting insults and threats at Israeli peace activists demonstrating outside the home of a Palestinian leader, a police spokesman said. The army said the soldiers shot dead a Palestinian from the West Bank village of Biddu after their patrol was hit by a hail of stones and bottles. Arab reports identified the Palestinian as Khaled Hassan Mohammad Abu Eid. In the Gaza Strip, a 55-year-old Arab U.N. worker was found



Women walk past cars waiting to cross from west to east Beirut. Many families from the divided city are returning to their homes after six months of shelling now that Arab efforts have halted the bloodshed.

Israeli cabinet rejects Cairo dialogue proposal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's policy-making inner cabinet Friday rejected a proposal by Egypt to meet with a Palestinian delegation in Cairo. Some Labour Party leaders called for leaving the coalition government over the vote but others saying they will not leave the coalition. After nine hours of debate over the days, the 12 members of the coalition government deadlocked along party lines in a 6-to-6 vote. The tie automatically defeated a proposal by the Labour Party of Vice Premier Shimon Peres to accept the Egyptian invitation to talk with Palestinians about Israel's own proposals for elections in the occupied territories. "I am very disappointed... Israel today suffered a severe setback," said Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Labour. Many leaders of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud viewed the Egyptian invitation, involving meetings with Palestinians from outside the occupied territories, as a trick to get Israel to talk indirectly to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "The prime minister formulated it well when he said that if we adopt (Labour's proposal), we recognise the PLO... Israel would have walked into a trap of no return," said David Levy, the Likud housing minister. Labour ministers said the vote passed up an opportunity to advance a five-month-old Israeli offer to hold elections in the occupied territories. Despite their defeat, some Labour ministers said they would not leave the government but would convene party meetings to decide whether next step. They said they would still consider a compromise. Likud Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said a proposal by Secretary of State James Baker for U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian talks on the composition of a Palestinian delegation was likely to pass an inner cabinet vote — once it was received in writing. "I think if the proposal is presented as Mr. Baker presented it to me... it will be carried in the cabinet," Arens told reporters. In Cairo, Foreign Ministry sources said Egypt would not comment on the Israeli cabinet vote until it received a full report from its ambassador in Tel Aviv. Arens, just back from the United States, said Baker proposed three-way talks on the composition of the Palestinian delegation. The idea arose at a meeting of Arens, Baker and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid. After an inconclusive inner cabinet meeting Thursday, Arens said he called Baker who promised to commit the proposal to writing. When the proposal did not arrive Friday, Labour pressed ahead with its own demand. "Instead of waiting for the proposal, they insisted on holding a vote when they knew beforehand that they couldn't carry their proposal and I can only explain it on narrow party interests, not out of concern for peace for Israel's interests," Arens said. Shamir's media adviser Avi

Lack of confidence haunts Taif talks

TAIF, Saudi Arabia (Agencies) — Right-wing Christian members of the Lebanese parliament came under growing pressure Friday to drop their demand for further guarantees of a quick Syrian withdrawal from their war-torn country. Formal talks went into recess Friday to give an Arab League committee more time to break down the rightist resistance, deputies said. Conference sources said the mediators called diplomats from Iraq, France, Britain and the United States to Taif Thursday to ask them to work on the anti-Syrian General Michel Aoun, who remains in east Beirut. Hamid Dakroub, a conservative Shi'ite deputy close to the Christian camp, indicated the Christians were still holding out for a firmer timetable. "Some Lebanese are asking the committee to give guarantees that the Syrians will withdraw. It's a question of confidence and that confidence does not yet exist," he told reporters. Differences over the estimated 33,000 Syrian troops are the main obstacle to a "national reconciliation charter" under discussion since Saturday at a meeting of the Lebanese parliament in the Saudi town of Taif. The document gives the Syrians up to two years to redeploy in eastern Lebanon from the time parliament passes political reforms to reflect the growing demographic weight of Muslims. The Arab committee — Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Morocco and the Arab League — was set up in May after Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war entered a new phase with Aoun proclaiming a "war of national liberation" against the Syrians. Arab mediators who drafted the charter and the Muslim deputies who support it have been telling Christian opposition it is Lebanon's best chance for peace. "This is the best formula that is practicable," Deputy Ali Khalil told reporters Friday. "When the committee says publicly that it will do all it can to

King to address country

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday addresses the country on the resumption of democratic parliamentary life. The King will review the circumstances which prevented holding parliamentary election since 1967, the challenges and dangers facing Jordan, and the responsibilities of candidates and voters in elections and the next phase.

Qadhafi envoy arrives with message to King

AMMAN (Petra) — Member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council Major Al Khawilidi Al Hamidi arrived in Amman Friday with a message from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to His Majesty King Hussein dealing with the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, particularly the Palestine question. Upon arrival, the Libyan official said that his talks with the Jordanian officials would focus on bilateral relations and means to develop them. He also paid tribute to Jordan's pan-Arab role. He was received at Amman Airport by King Hussein's private advisor Amer Khamash, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh, and senior officials.

12 held for questioning in probe into rocket attack

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government said Friday security forces had arrested 12 members of a Palestinian group for their involvement in a missile attack across the demarcation line with Israel. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted an official spokesman as saying the members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) were arrested "for interrogation linked to the smuggling of explosives and helping infiltrations into Jordan for launching rockets across the demarcation line." The spokesman said these activities aimed to "create tension in the area bordering the West Bank and divert attention from the

EC appeals to Israel to reopen Palestinian universities

PARIS (R) — The 12-member European Community (EC) Friday made a strong appeal to Israel to reopen universities in the occupied territories, shut down since the Palestinian uprising began nearly 22 months ago. "The community and its member states request the Israeli government in the strongest terms to end without delay the closure of the universities and other higher-level educational institutions in the occupied territories," a statement released in Paris said. "They address to the Israeli government a solemn appeal to refrain in future from any measure such as to compromise the functioning of the educational system," it added. Israel closed all five universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in January 1988, one month after the Palestinian uprising began, claiming the universities were a focus of violent resistance to Israeli occupation. The move has disrupted 18,000 students' education.

Armenia blockade lifted

MOSCOW (R) — Trains moved vital supplies into Soviet Armenia Friday, ending a blockade by workers in neighbouring Azerbaijan lasting for more than a month. The official TASS news agency said hundreds of wagons rolled in to the southern Soviet republic bordering Turkey, three days after the Soviet parliament authorised the army to take over operation of the railways. There was no confirmation of the report from Yerevan, the Armenian capital, where a spokesman for the Armenian Foreign Ministry had said the republic was relying entirely on emergency supplies sent in from Georgia to the northwest. TASS said the trains passed between Armenia and Azerbaijan, where workers have blocked railways to press the Armenians to drop their claims to the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. "However, the situation on the lines remains complex," the agency said. "More than 5,000 cars have built up on main lines and sidings in Azerbaijan, twice the normal figure." The agency said a special scheme, similar to the one used during last December's earthquake in Armenia, had been introduced to enable twice the number of trains to travel on the line linking the two republics. It said the area's rail network would be cleared within five to six days. TASS said some 60,000 rail cars were trapped in adjacent regions. Its report was datelined Baku, the Azerbaijan capital, and issued jointly with Azerbaijan, Armenia's news agency. The Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman, speaking by telephone from Yerevan, said earlier, however, troops sent to Armenia's southeast border following the parliamentary resolution had failed to break the Azerbaijani blockade. "The situation is getting worse and worse," he said. "Nothing is getting through from Azerbaijan. I don't know what the troops are doing, but it isn't working." A spokeswoman at the Armenian news agency Armenpress said 10 plane loads of troops had arrived in Yerevan Oct. 3, the day the Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution empowering the army to take over the railways. She said they were all sent down to the border with Nakhichevan, an Azerbaijani enclave through which the main railway line passes. Azerbaijani workers imposed a blockade of all road and rail links with Armenia in early August, seeking to starve the republic into submission in their long-standing territorial dispute. More than 100 people have been killed in the past 19 months in clashes over Nagorno-Karabakh, an autonomous province of Azerbaijan with a majority Armenian population.

Gorbachev nudges East Germans on reforms on their own terms

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, visiting East Germany as an unprecedented refugee exodus there subsided, Friday nudged the country's rigid Communist leadership to introduce reforms. But the Soviet leader, in East Berlin to join celebrations marking this country's 40th anniversary, said the East Germans would have to decide what changes, if any, they should make. "Those who take their inspiration from life and society do not have to fear anything," he said after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. "We know our German friends well," he continued. "They are specialists in thinking things over and making corrections if necessary." "Gorby, Gorby," shouted East Germans waiting along Gorbachev's motorcade route into downtown East Berlin, hailing the Soviet leader whose political and economic reforms have been rejected by the East German leadership. Thousands of East Germans have fled west in the past month in an exodus that began when Warsaw Pact ally Hungary opened its border with Austria to would-be emigres. (see page 8).

"Be patient, don't panic," Gorbachev told young East Germans during the visit to the World War II memorial. West German television reported a third straight night of clashes between police and protesters in Dresden, where some had sought to hop aboard trains carrying more than 7,000 East German refugees from Czechoslovakia to West Germany. The closing of the three crossing points — the busiest of nine such venues — came as Communist authorities imposed tight security for the anniversary celebrations and Gorbachev's visit. "The carefully choreographed celebrations have been soured by the more than 40,000 East Germans who have turned their backs on their Communist homeland in an exodus unseen since the Berlin Wall was constructed in 1961. Gorbachev told a crowd of well-wishers and reporters outside the war memorial that he thought East Germany's leaders would work out the nation's problems and he told East Germans to be patient. "I am certain that every people must determine what it becomes. We know our German friends

Hijackers threaten to blow Burmese plane in Thailand

BANGKOK (Agencies) — Two Burmese students demanding restoration of democracy in their military-run country hijacked a Burmese airliner Friday and threatened to blow it up after forcing it to land in Thailand, a Thai naval officer said. Somchai Kacwibunphan said the hijackers released 35 of the 85 people on board the plane, then said they would destroy it after the Burmese ambassador refused to meet their demands. But an initial deadline set by the hijackers passed without incident. Thai and Burmese diplomats were reported negotiating with the hijackers. Thailand's Channel 7 television reported the hijackers later stopped issuing deadlines and said they were willing to give themselves up to Thai authorities if their demands were met. The television station quoted released hostages as speculating the hijackers had rigged a remote-controlled explosive inside the aircraft because they saw wiring hanging from some of the plane's overhead baggage racks. Somchai said Deputy Thai Prime Minister Tienchai Sirisunphan had talked with the hijackers three times and relayed what they said to Burmese Ambassador Nymt Sae, who refused to meet any of their demands. Police sources said the hijackers were both 22 and named them as Ye Yint and Ye Thi Ha. Burmese sources said the two names appeared to be pseudonyms — Ye Yint means "brave" and Ye Thi Ha means "lion." The police sources said it appeared all those on board were Burmese. They added that 15 crack anti-terrorist police had been flown secretly to U Tapao. Security force units had surrounded the plane, but at a distance. The conversation with the Burmese ambassador over a military radio was monitored by reporters waiting at the gates of U Tapao airport. The airliner was out of sight. When one of the hijackers told the ambassador the plane would be blown up unless the demands were met, the ambassador said he could not hear the remark.

Iraq accuses Iran of pursuing policy of no war, no peace

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq accused Iran Thursday of perpetuating a policy of no war, no peace since the start of a Gulf ceasefire in August 1988 and said its refusal to agree to an exchange of more than 100,000 prisoners of war created a dangerous precedent.

In a speech to the General Assembly, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said Iran had turned U.N.-sponsored talks on a peace settlement into "an arena for polemics and propaganda."

"Iraq warns the international community against this dangerous approach on which Iran has so far insisted. Iraq cannot, therefore, accept any partial measures or plans to serve the Iranian scheme of perpetuating the state of no war and no peace."

Aziz said his country had taken the initiative in releasing sick and wounded prisoners of war, had demobilised more than 200,000 men, disbanded an entire army corps and decided a few days ago to disband five more divisions.

It had also rebuilt the cities of Basra and Fao, even though they remained within the range of Iranian guns.

"The step required now, after more than a year of inaction for which Iran bears full responsibility, is to go back to the table of direct negotiations under the auspices of the (U.N.) secretary general... and to work sincerely on the implementation of Resolution 598."

This was adopted by the Security Council in July 1987 and embodies a peace plan that remains unimplemented apart from

last year's ceasefire.

"Iran's selective attitudes, along with its resorting to manoeuvres and extortionist tactics, have prolonged the sufferings of more than 100,000 Iraqi and Iranian prisoners of war and increased the pains of their families who found hope in the ceasefire," Aziz said.

"This constitutes a dangerous precedent which has never been witnessed throughout the history of the United Nations and the history preceding its establishment."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says it has registered about 50,200 Iraqi prisoners in Iran and some 18,900 Iranian prisoners in Iraq, but estimates each country may be holding as many as 20,000 unregistered prisoners.

Aziz called on the United Nations to shoulder its legal and humanitarian responsibility and make Iran "renounce the policy of holding people hostage for political ends — a policy which Iran is well known to have been practising systematically."

On the situation in Lebanon, he said Iraq "condemns the Israeli military occupation... (it) also condemns the Syrian and Iranian occupation of Lebanon."

"No solution can be found to the Lebanese crisis but by terminating this occupation, putting an end to external interference in the Lebanese internal affairs and creating the suitable free climate for the Lebanese people to settle their internal problems and achieve national reconciliation through dialogue," Aziz added.

An Iraqi paper Thursday said Iranian Revolutionary Guards occupied the empty Iraqi ambassador's residence in Tehran and built a school in the garden, and it threatened retaliation.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted information Minister Latif Nassayef Jassim as calling the taking over of the embassy on Aug. 23 a flagrant aggression. It provided no direct quotes.

The Al Thawra newspaper of the ruling Baath Party warned that if the premises were not evacuated Iraq would retaliate against the residence of the Iranian ambassador in Baghdad. It did not elaborate.

The daily reported that the Revolutionary Guards also looted the premises in Tehran and seized a diplomatic car that was left there.

Vassiliou doubts U.N. will withdraw ideas

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Cypriot President George Vassiliou said Thursday he could not imagine the U.N. secretary general would withdraw ideas for resolving the Cyprus problem whose presentation was objected to by Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

"I cannot imagine that the secretary general will ever accept to withdraw the ideas," he told a news conference.

"The ideas... were not a formal proposal for acceptance or rejection. It was for discussion," he said. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar called them "food for thought," he added.

They deal with constitutional and other matters related to efforts to reunite the divided island under a federal system of government, which Vassiliou and Denktaş have been discussing for more than a year.

Denktaş, who is due to see Perez de Cuellar here next week, said in August he would not continue with the talks if the secretary general's ideas remained on the table.

Vassiliou, who addressed the General Assembly Wednesday and later saw President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, said he was pleased with his trip to Washington.

"I was very happy to have President Bush give his wholehearted support to the secretary general and at the same time make very clear that he cannot consider, and the United States government will never accept, the status quo as a solution."

Vassiliou said the United States was taking a more active interest in the Cyprus question than in recent years and wanted to see progress.

N. Cyprus leader urges equality

A Turkish Cypriot official called Thursday for an equal partnership, without which he said there could be no lasting peace in Cyprus.

"Unless the equal partnership status of the Turkish Cypriot people is acknowledged there will be no lasting and logical peace in Cyprus," Hakkı Atın, acting president and house speaker in the breakaway northern part of the island, said.

He said Vassiliou should "abandon holding unfairly the title of the president of Cyprus."

Two Swiss nationals kidnapped in Lebanon

SIDON (R) — Three gunmen kidnapped two Swiss Red Cross technicians outside a medical centre Friday in the second attack this year against foreign relief workers in the south Lebanese port of Sidon.

The two Swiss men, Emmanuel Christen, 25, and Elio Enriquez, 23, were seized at 7.30 a.m. (0430 GMT) outside the orthopaedic centre of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), security and ICRC sources said.

The centre is only 50 metres away from the Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ain Al Hilweh.'

On May 12 gunmen in Sidon kidnapped two West Germans, Heinrich Striebig, 48, and Thomas Kumpner, aid workers for the Humanitas relief agency which cares for Palestinian refugees.

Friday's abduction raised the total number of Westerners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon to 19.

Witnesses said the gunmen waited in a dark blue Mercedes car some five metres away from the centre.

As soon as they stepped out of their white Peugeot car, one of the gunmen, holding a pistol, advanced towards them, grabbed the two and bundled them into the boot of the car," one ICRC witness told Reuters.

The witness said the gunman also tried to snatch the driver but stopped short when he protested he was Lebanese.

"Then he went inside the orthopaedic centre and tried to abduct the Lebanese secretary but changed his mind when she said she was Lebanese," the witness added.

The gunman pointed his gun at the Lebanese workers in the centre and warned them not to move. He then rushed into the car which sped off.

Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, is controlled by a Sunni

Muslim militia, the Popular Liberation Army (PLA), and various Palestinian guerrilla factions based in 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mich Mieh refugee camps near the city.

No group claimed responsibility for the kidnapping but security sources in Beirut and Sidon said the gunmen belonged to the radical Palestinian Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) led by Abu Nidal.

Last November gunmen seeking the release of Lebanese hijacker Hussein Mohammad Hattar kidnapped ICRC worker Peter Winkler. He was freed one month later.

Security sources said Winkler was abducted by the FRC and was then handed over to extremists. He was held in a windowless cell but was well treated. The FRC has repeatedly denied any link to hostage-taking.

Hattar was sentenced to life imprisonment last February for

hijacking an Air Afrique plane to Geneva, an killing a French passenger in 1987.

Last December, Switzerland withdrew its ambassador from Lebanon and the Geneva-based ICRC evacuated its 14 foreign staff because of threats aimed at securing Hattar's release.

It was the first time the organisation had pulled out all its Swiss staff from a country in its 125-year history. They returned to Lebanon in January after receiving assurances about their safety.

In Geneva, ICRC spokesman Carlos Bauver confirmed the kidnapping and said any such action harmed the humanitarian work of the organisation.

The ICRC representative in Sidon Roland Sedler said the committee was holding contacts with various factions to secure the release of the two ICRC delegates.

U.S. warns PLO members against addressing rally

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States Thursday warned Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegates attending the United Nations against addressing a political meeting outside the bounds of the international body.

Five delegates, including the PLO's chief foreign spokesman Farouk Kaddoumi, were due to address a public meeting late Thursday at the U.N. Church Centre, across the street from United Nations headquarters in New York City.

The State Department said that would violate the terms of the delegates' entry visas to the United States.

The PLO's U.N. observer, Zehdi Terzi, said he had known nothing about the advertised public meeting until an official of the U.N. legal office told him late Wednesday that the United States had sent a note saying participation by PLO delegates would violate the terms of their visas.

Referring to a pamphlet advertising the meeting issued by a group called Palestine Solidarity Committee, Terzi told Reuters: "I was surprised that such a flier was sent out. But as far as I know and Mr. Kaddoumi knows, no one of the delegation will appear at that meeting."

Asked whether the PLO delegates had cancelled because of the U.S. warning, Terzi replied:

"We never started it. The first thing I knew about it was last night when (a U.N. legal official) called me."

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said: "The visas for visiting members of the PLO delegation included an annotation that the visas were to be used only to attend the U.N. General Assembly."

"I have to say that visiting delegation members who participate in this activity would be in violation of their visa status," he said.

Boucher said the United States had brought the matter to the attention of the U.N. secretariat, asking them to notify the PLO delegates of the ban.

John Bolton, the assistant secretary of state for international organisations, made the determination, and the State Department notified the U.N. secretariat of the finding, said an official.

The delegation from Tunisia, where the PLO maintains its headquarters, included Kaddoumi, head of its political department; Yasser Abd Rabbo, of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Suleiman Najjar, of the Palestine Communist Party; Tayssir Kabha, of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and Mohammad Milhem, a member of the PLO Executive Committee.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

More Israelis supporting extreme right

TEL AVIV (AP) — A survey published Thursday showed an increase in support for right-wing political parties, apparently due to public frustration over the Palestinian uprising. Of 1,470 randomly chosen Israelis questioned in face-to-face interviews, 33.5 per cent supported Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party, similar to its support following the general elections in December. Support for the left Labour Party dropped by 3.5 points to 28 per cent. The survey was conducted by independent pollster Hanoth Smith and published in the Labour Party daily Davar. Smith asked those surveyed "which party would you vote for if Knesset (parliament) elections were held today?" The extreme right-wing Tehiya, Izomet and Mokedet parties were the ones to benefit from Labour's loss, gaining a total of 12 per cent, 3.5 per cent more than in December. Smith said the rightward trend was because the public was losing faith in negotiations aimed at ending the uprising. "I think the public in Israel is getting frustrated looking for answers and becoming increasingly hostile," he said. "The right-wing parties are giving the public solid answers." Support for religious and most left-wing parties remained stable. The Citizen's Rights Movement, however, also marked a 2.5 point increase since December giving it 6 per cent of the vote. The poll was conducted between Sept. 21-26 and has a 3 per cent margin of error.

Turkey urged stop of Armenian resolution

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey has urged President George Bush's administration to try to block a joint resolution in Congress that accuses the Ottoman Turks of genocide in the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians. A Foreign Ministry statement said adoption of such a resolution would cause "irreparable and exceedingly negative damage to U.S.-Turkish relations." The resolution, introduced by Senate Republican leader Robert Dole Sept. 29, would designate April 24, 1990, as "national day of remembrance of the 75th anniversary of the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923." In a letter he circulated to other senators inviting co-sponsors, Dole said the action would not affect strong security ties with NATO partner Turkey because "all of the events in question occurred long before the Republic of Turkey was formed." The Foreign Ministry said "this would not attenuate the seriousness of the slander against the Turkish people because those accused are our ancestors."

Groups claim killing Belgian Jewish leader

BRUSSELS (R) — A previously-unknown group claimed responsibility Friday for killing the secular leader of Belgium's Jews this week and threatened more attacks. "We, Young Palestine Proud and Free, claim responsibility for the assassination of the Jewish doctor Joseph Wybran," the group said in a typewritten letter received by a Brussels newspaper. "Jews of Belgium and Europe tremble, for we shall not stop at this attack," the letter said. The group claimed to be young revolutionaries trained and supported by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Wybran was shot in the head outside the Brussels hospital in which he worked Tuesday night and died early Wednesday. Police said they were investigating the letter but declined to comment on its authenticity. On Thursday a group in Lebanon, the Soldiers of Truth, claimed responsibility for the killing.

Sudan criticises Zambia, Zimbabwe

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan has criticised Zambia and Zimbabwe for receiving John Garang, leader of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Ali Shummo, acting foreign minister, was quoted by the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) as saying that Sudan expected President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe to "help in solving Africa's problems instead of receiving outlaws." He said that the two leaders "opened their countries' doors for rebel leader John Garang." Shummo threatened to reciprocate by receiving rebels from Zambia and Zimbabwe, but added: "We do not encourage outlaw elements." Shummo said that while Sudan did not want to escalate the situation, it "will not nevertheless keep silent." He did not indicate if the government would take any other steps. Garang visited both countries recently.

EC welcomes Taif peace talks

PARIS (R) — The European Community (EC) Thursday welcomed peace talks underway between Lebanese members of parliament in Saudi Arabia as the beginning of national reconciliation and the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty. The 12-member community welcomed the recent ceasefire in Lebanon and called on all parties involved in the conflict to ensure that talks in the Saudi mountain resort of Taif took place against a peaceful background.

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:55 Children programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:25 A play by Shakespeare
19:10 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Consumer's Guide
22:25 Local programme
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Anger El Loups
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Natural Phenomena
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Allo Allo
21:10 Saturday Show
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Ice man"

PRAYER TIMES

06:12 Fajr
05:29 Sunrise/Duha
11:23 Dhuhr
14:44 Asr

CHURCHES

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Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
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Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
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Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and temperatures below normal and there will be a chance for scattered showers in the

USEFUL TELEPHONE

northern and central regions. Winds will be westerly moderate freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 12/23
Aqaba 20/32
Deserts 14/29
Jordan Valley 20/31
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 62 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.
AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Al Hourani 625478
Dr. Yuhay Abdul Rahim 738974
Dr. Walid Al Mousi 675485
Dr. Isam Nawawneh 624830
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 67055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636720
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
JERUSALEM:
Dr. Fiddiya Al Jubour 983238
Al Shera's pharmacy 985417
ZARQA:
Dr. Youssef Abu Sa'ad 63481
Khalifa pharmacy 985417
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 863402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63032
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 87467
Complaints 87467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Television

Radio Jordan 77111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 63681
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HOSPITALS

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Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdull 771013
Al-Ahli, Abdull 6641646
Italian, Al-Musharraf 771013
Al-Baski, J. Ashraf 8016115
Queen Alia Hospital 6224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)971071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732
JERUSALEM:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)914111

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08:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
15:45 New York, Montreal (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:00 Baghdad (IA)
12:30 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Kuwait (KU)
14:00 Tripoli (LN)
14:45 Riyadh (SU)
15:00 Rome (AZ)
21:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
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07:15 Tripoli (RJ)
07:30 New York (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Larnaca, Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
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12:15 Paris (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
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20:10 Jeddah (RJ)
20:25 Cairo (RJ)
20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

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Grapefruit 240/200
Grapes 320/280
Grapes (black) 320/280
Guava 420/380
Lemon 190/150
Mango 130/100
Mango (large) 180/150
Mango (small) 320/270
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Not on our expense

FIRST Tel Aviv asked Washington to intercede with Moscow to allow hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to leave the Soviet Union, and now Israel is asking the U.S. government to foot the bill for the resettlement of those migrants not only within Israel itself but also in the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war. If some of the wave of the anticipated 100,000 Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union end up settling in the West Bank, then the two superpowers should bear direct responsibility for an act which will bring about incalculable harm not only to the Arab side but also to the precarious peace process in the Middle East.

It is the Arab right to ask of the Soviet Union to make sure that the mass exodus of Soviet Jews will not be in any way at the cost of the Palestinian Arabs. This is the least that one would expect from the Soviet Union which has developed a traditionally fair stance on the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict until this point in time. As for the U.S., which is deeply involved in the process of mediation between the parties to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, any funding of Jewish settlement on Arab lands would damage to infinite proportions the emerging positive American perspective on the stalled peace process, especially in these critical days when a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is in the offing.

If the right to leave one's country is a proposition that both superpowers are now subscribing to, it is the fervent hope and aspiration of the Arab World that that right should be exercised with due respect for other rights, especially those related to the people who will end up bearing the cost of its implementation. It must be pointed out at this juncture that the right to leave one's country as espoused in relevant international human rights instruments refers to individuals and not to mass emigration of people. In fact that very right is still being discussed in various international fora with a view to elaborating a specific convention on it in due course. It is noteworthy that none of the international instruments governing mass migration tolerates in the slightest possible way jeopardising the rights of other peoples who may be affected by such massive exoduses to their lands and territories. Accordingly, Washington and Moscow are duty bound to respect international law before going ahead with their joint venture to resettle Soviet Jews in Arab territories. Otherwise the implications of their utter disregard for justice and law would shatter the growing optimism generated by their growing entente.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabie dailies Friday gave prominence to the King's visit to the tribal regions in southern Jordan on Thursday noting the public jubilation over the visit and the renewed allegiance to the Hashemite throne.

Al Ra'i daily said that the King's visit to Husseinieh near Ma'an and his meeting with the tribal chieftains there marked another link in the long chain of close relations between leader and people. The paper said that the King was welcomed with enthusiastic cheers from the crowds and from the Badia people demonstrating their love and allegiance to their leader. The Jordanian people's all out support for the King and his wise leadership have been manifested during his recent series of visits to the southern regions of the Kingdom, borne to a united Jordanian family in which the King expressed his pride, the paper noted. King Hussein reaffirmed to the people in the south his determination to pursue the march for progress and for serving the Arab people of Jordan in the face of challenges and external dangers, the paper said. The King, the paper added also urged the Badia tribes and the Jordanian family to maintain a strong cohesion and continued solidarity.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily newspaper tackles the quality and prices of locally produced commodities. Salah Abdul Samad points out that the Jordanian people would like to give preference to locally produced soap, and detergents but a shopper nowadays finds these products excessively expensive and not of high quality that can compete with foreign marks. The writer says there is poor response to calls in the media and by the government to encourage national industries simply because of the poor quality of certain products and their scarcity in the markets. The Jordanian products are of less quality than the foreign products and more costly, thus barring people from showing enthusiasm towards opting for makes products, the writer noted. He also says that since Jordanian products are now enjoying the protection of the state, the manufacturers should seize the opportunity and improve the quality and offer the products at a reasonable price. The writer urges the newly formed society for the protection of the consumers to act in a manner to help bring about beneficial results for all parties.

Al Dastour daily discussed the King's visit to the southern regions of the Kingdom on Thursday. The paper said that the King's visit was met with enthusiastic cheering by the crowds who were overwhelmed by delight and joy and who renewed their allegiance to the Hashemite throne. King Hussein recalled in his speech to the public rally in Husseinieh his earlier memories of visits to the tribes in Jordan and his meetings with tribal chieftains who had exerted all their efforts to safeguard the Kingdom and to join the rest of the Jordanian family in the process of construction and development. King Hussein paid tribute to the tribal leaders for their national stand and urged members of the Jordanian society to maintain the strongest possible cohesion, the paper said.

What kind of Europe will it be?

By Jim Hoagland

PARIS — The European Community's drive for full integration in 1992 is already changing the course of events in Europe. While Americans see a united Europe as a theoretical question that they can think about tomorrow, Europeans on both sides of the Iron Curtain are adjusting today to the meaning for them of greater unity.

This is apparent in what has just happened in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and in what is about to happen in Western Europe. Inside the EC, the season of skirmishing over the 1992 project has ended and serious battles over whose concept of Europe will prevail now begin.

The dramatic summer of change in Poland and Hungary has shown how analysts overestimated East European fears of the

Soviets while underestimating fears in Budapest, Warsaw and even Moscow of a united Europe shutting out the economically desperate nations behind the Iron Curtain.

The Community's effort to enact laws that lift all internal barriers to the movement of goods, labour and capital frequently looks to Americans and many West Europeans like a skittering of crabs on the beach. But from behind the Iron Curtain, Western Europe looks like a train building up steam and pulling out of the station.

Hungary covets membership in an expanded EC. The Hungarian leadership is making a desperate lunge for the departing train with its decisions to break Warsaw Pact unity over East German refugees and to establish an authentic multiparty political system. Poland's Communist leaders

have also come to accept that the road out of economic disaster passes through Western Europe. Moscow's reaction in both cases is to acquiesce, in part for its own economic reasons.

West of the Iron Curtain, 1992 is moving away from the trade technicians who have been grappling with sectorial issues and into the hands of the political leaders, who confront three grand concepts of what a united Europe should look like.

Margaret Thatcher has put forward Britain's concept with characteristic pungency. An integrated Europe in her view should be a continent-wide consumers' union, with goods and services flowing unhindered across national frontiers to grateful shoppers. Mrs. Thatcher's Europe would be a kind of giant Heathrow duty-free lounge.

There would be no political institutions to hamper Britain's special relationship with the United States, and no Europe-wide laws would force her to cede an ounce of authority back to British trade unions.

The French, as could be expected, see it differently. They want a political and administrative Europe that directs economic change into socially beneficial channels. Europe would be a large lycée, with a French principal setting rules to keep West German's overwhelming economic power from translating into overwhelming military or political power. A political Europe with a commitment to joint defence policies is for Paris the best instrument for containing German nationalism.

Bonn's position on 1992 is more difficult to read, partly be-

cause the coalition government is divided and prefers to put off choices. But the common denominator is a desire for a "functional" Europe: Issues would be decided one by one and not settled by all-encompassing architecture such as the French and British are proposing.

The functional approach maximises West Germany's economic power. It creates a series of arm-wrestling contests that Bonn would easily win. Bonn wants an industrialist's Europe, with decisions made for the good of the factory and the production line. Added to this is a desire to keep political questions open while the issue of German reunification remains open.

U.S. policymakers seem to back the Thatcher approach. Her vision allows for the greatest circulation of American goods and services in a community of con-

sumers. There would presumably be the least amount of trans-Atlantic trade friction if she prevailed.

But there is a serious flaw in the Thatcher approach, which was set in concrete before Poland and Hungary moved towards democracy and before negotiations on conventional disarmament in Europe began in earnest. But ruling out a political Europe, Mrs. Thatcher forfeits a great deal of Britain's influence on the German question. Britain also will have less to say about the political context of European disarmament if it stays with the Heathrow duty-free lounge approach.

Mrs. Thatcher should be inside the tent, fighting to marry the good points of the three approaches, rather than outside pouring scorn on everyone else — The Washington Post.

Arab unity is solution to demographic imbalances

The following is the introductory part of a paper, population and development in the Arab World: Major issues, presented at a 3-day conference on the theme of safeguarding the future held in Amman between Oct. 1-3. The author is chief of the Social Development, Population and Human Settlements Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

By Riad Tabbarah

THE POPULATION situation in the Arab World has a number of peculiar features that have not been observed in past development nor are they observed in the development of the developing countries today. These peculiarities are generally due to the unusual development being experienced in the region, which is itself the result of the sudden and substantial increase in oil prices, and hence incomes, beginning in the mid-1970s and continuing until the early 1980s. This oil factor has affected not only the oil producing countries of the region, but also the neighbouring Arab countries through the transfer of resources to them in the form of development assistance, private investment and, above all, remittances that workers in the Gulf countries sent home on regular basis. The purpose of this paper is to review briefly the population and development situation in the Arab World, look at some of its major issues and propose some actions that decision makers may take to impart greater rationality to the development of the Arab region.

As a first step in this analysis, let us look at the Arab World as one country which I had called on

previous occasions The United Arab States (or UAS).

What are the geographic and socio-economic dimensions of this country? The UAS has an area of approximately 14 million square kilometres and is thus the second largest country in the world, coming after the Soviet Union which has an area of 22 million square kilometres but before Canada, China and the United States of America each of which does not exceed 10 million square kilometres. Total population has now reached 215 million and is adding some 8 million each year to reach in 15 years close to 330 million persons, a number that will exceed at that time the population in each of the United States and the Soviet Union, making it the third most populous country in the world after China and India. It is expected that by 2010 the population of the United Arab States will reach 395 million thus exceeding the population of the European Common Market of 337 million at that time.

Per capita income is around \$2000 per year (1987) which means that the UAS is indeed a developing country but among the better off in this category. It falls, in this respect, between Brazil and South Korea, although it is considerably less industrial-

ised than these newly industrialised countries, as evidenced by the fact that only 10 per cent of its GDP originates in the manufacturing sector as against 30 per cent in South Korea. On the other hand, the total foreign debt of the country is less considerable than that of most of the comparable developing countries in the world. In 1985, it amounted to some \$65 billion, i.e., to \$350 per capita as against \$1200 for Mexico and \$1600 for Argentina. More important, the value of UAS holdings abroad was estimated at between \$400 and \$500 billion for that same year, which means that all the country's debt could be wiped out by forfeiting one or two years of the profits generated by its foreign holdings.

The most important natural resource of the United Arab States is obviously oil since close to 60 per cent of the known oil reserves in the world are to be found within its boundaries. The country has, of course, other important natural resources: for example, close to a quarter of the total world production of phosphate takes place in it.

The UAS is an avid importer of goods and services from abroad, particularly from the developed countries. The value of its imports in any one year is likely to be more than twice that of its exports. It has indeed become a major client of the industrialised world from where 75 per cent of its imports (some \$50 billion in 1986) originate.

Getting back to population, the United Arab States has high fer-

tility rates even by comparison with the less developed world as a whole, but certainly in relation to countries that have similar levels of per capita income. The Arab woman produces, on average, 5 to 6 children, over her lifetime which results in a crude birth rate of some 40 births per one thousand population, a level which is high relative to those found generally in developing countries with the same level of income. The crude death rate, on the other hand, does not exceed 11 per thousand which is very low for a developing country and comparable in fact to levels found in the industrialised world. As a result of this high crude birth rate and the low crude death rate, the rate of natural increase is itself very high reaching some 3 per cent a year. At this rate, the population will double in 23 years.

High fertility levels

Because of the high fertility levels, the United Arab States has a very young population. Of the 215 million inhabitants more than 91 million are under the age of 15 years and some 134 million (a full 62.5 per cent) are under the age of 25 years. On the other hand, the proportion of the population over 65 years is less than 3.5 per cent. It should be noted, however, that the expected decline in fertility will cause a rapid growth in the proportion of aged population, beginning particularly after the year 2000. Thus, according to the latest United Nations projections, the growth rate of the population 65 and over, during the first quarter of the next century (3.7 per cent), is expected to be twice as high as that of the total population. In the Gulf states, the ex-

pected rate of growth of the aged population is expected to vary between 4.5 and 7.5 per cent a year during that same period. Considering that the Arab family is increasingly being nuclearised, gradually forfeiting its traditional services to the elderly, it is clear that problems of the aged are looming in the horizon.

The rate of participation in the labour force is quite low. Only about one person in four is engaged in economic production as this is defined by the International Labour Organisation and economists in general. This is not only due to the youthfulness of the population but also, and indeed particularly, to the low participation of women. Only one woman in ten is actually involved in economic production. In some states, like Saudi Arabia, less than 5 per cent of the women work outside the home.

Problem of illiteracy

In the sector of education, finally, illiteracy is still quite high in the United Arab States, particularly among women. The illiteracy rate among females is around 70 per cent while it is less than 42 per cent among males. But from all indications, the elimination of illiteracy through the spread of primary and secondary education is proceeding rapidly. At present, some 90 per cent of boys, of primary school age, and some 70 per cent of girls attend primary schools and about half of these eventually enter secondary schools.

It should be noted, however, that all the above indicators vary tremendously between one state and another. Per capita GNP, for example, varies from around \$300 in the states of Somalia and the Sudan to between \$15,000

and \$16,000 in the states of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (1987). Similarly, while the state of Egypt has a foreign debt of some \$25 billion (1988), the state of Saudi Arabia has net foreign assets estimated at more than \$200 billion. The same is also true of demographic and social indicators. Thus, while infant mortality in the United Arab States is around 90 per thousand live births, it is between 20 and 30 per thousand in the states of Kuwait and Bahrain and between 130 and 150 per thousand in the states of Mauritania and Somalia. Expectation of life at birth varies, in turn, between 40 and 45 years in the states of Somalia and Mauritania but reaches upward of 71 years in the states of Qatar, Kuwait and the Emirates, Aqar, while the average woman in the United Arab States bears around 6 children in her lifetime, this number is less than 4 in the states of Lebanon and more than 7 in the states of Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Libya, Syria and Jordan. Even the rates of illiteracy among women vary tremendously among the different states. Female illiteracy in Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon is around 30 per cent while in Somalia and North Yemen it significantly exceeds the 90 per cent level.

It should finally be noted that the above situation will exist on the eve of an immediate declaration of the new state but demographic and socio-economic trends will undoubtedly be more positive in the future than in the past. This will be particularly true if the states in question decided to place all their developmental efforts inside the new entity and to place the bulk of their economic investments inside the new boundaries.

Third World — quagmired in debt

The developing countries' total debt in 1988 amounted to \$1,320 billion, or 58.8 per cent more than seven years ago. Is a solution to the unbearable burden of the borrowers in sight, or need the leaders fear a general moratorium on repayments?

By Svetislav Maksovic

TWO YEARS ago, the world's biggest debtor, Brazil, who owes foreign creditors a total of \$120 billion, declared a temporary moratorium on its debt repayments. The move immediately caused panic, even consternation, in banking circles who began speedily to draw up blueprints on ways to cover their losses. The thought that was foremost in their minds was: What if all the lenders stop repaying their debts?

Today, after the latest conclusions taken by the Commission for South-South Cooperation and in view of the fact that the crisis has not been alleviated over the past two years, lenders are again becoming jittery. Is a new moratorium in the offing, maybe even a united front against debt repayments?

The parties implicated in creating the crisis, both lenders and borrowers, apparently became aware of its seriousness only after Brazil's move. Only then did they realise that the problem was not only an economic but also a political one, and that both sides would have to work together for a solution. For, if it is a fact that many countries irresponsibly took large loans in the time of plentiful "petrodollars", it is also true that lenders irresponsibly lent money, without bothering to carefully screen would-be borrowers as they do today.

At a conference in Harare, Zimbabwe, the foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries noted in a document prepared for the 9th non-aligned summit in Belgrade in September that the swollen debt repayments had resulted in the absurd situation of the developing nations financing the industrialised. Last year alone,

the net outflow of capital from the developing to the developed world amounted to \$13 billion. This means that more money is being funnelled into the industrialised world in the form of debt servicing than finds its way to the developing countries in the form of loans or other facilities.

At the time Brazil drew world attention to the problem by declaring its temporary moratorium, the Third World's debt was \$1 trillion, of which slightly less than half was owed by Latin America. Today, as the data for 1988 released by international financial institutions shows, the debt has surged to \$1,320 billion, or half of the total GNP of the Third World countries. Even more concerning for the debtors is the rise by one-third of their debt servicing obligations over the past few years. And, concurrently, their per capita income is recording a constant drop and living standards have plunged to the level of 25 years ago.

The situation is best illustrated by the data published by the International Development Bank on Latin American debtors. The countries of the region allocate almost one-third of their export revenues for debt repayment. Though they are doing their best to earn more hard currency, the effects are poor. Thus, in 1987, they increased their exports by 35 per cent and cut down imports by 17 per cent. In the same period, however, their debt jumped from \$391 to \$408 billion, though almost no new loans were taken.

Until recently, debt repayment problems were resolved only by rescheduling deals mediated by the International Monetary Fund which always imposed strict belt-tightening policies involving monetary restrictions, drastic

cuts on spending and an increase in exports, so as to leave as much as possible for debt servicing.

Some countries were impatient and made extra efforts to repay their debt. Romania claims to have repaid its foreign debt in full but the result was the economic devastation of the country. Until last year, 15 per cent of Yugoslavia's hard currency earnings went to pay back the debt, but the effects were far from spectacular. The \$20-billion debt was somewhat reduced, but the price paid was very high — virtually no new investments and development. Inflation surged to an annual 500 per cent and the economic crisis has reached rock bottom.

In 1987, after the collective pressure put to bear by the debtor nations, primarily through the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 developing countries, creditors finally became aware that the hitherto solutions were no longer applicable. The crisis grew worse, the borrowers' situation was desperate, living standards plunged and inflation went sky-high. The Latin American countries, many of which had finally rid themselves of long-standing military junta rules, were particularly hard hit at the end of 1988 and early this year. Peru's economy was ravaged by the 2,000 per cent inflation rate and extreme rightists seized the chance to repeatedly urge the military to "restore order".

Recently, the United States came out with a debt relief scheme under which debtors and creditor banks would arrange bonds-for-loans swaps based on the market value of the debt which is considerably below the nominal value. The operation would be supported by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. On their part, the debtor nations would implement IMF economic adjustment programmes. — Tanja features.



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٢٦٢١٩٨ / ٢٦٢١٩٨

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CARPATI
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By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

Priceless manuscripts and artifacts on exhibit at the National Gallery

AMMAN — A priceless collection of manuscripts and artifacts bearing examples of the various styles of Islamic Calligraphy stand on exhibit at the National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jabal Luweibdeh. They are a living proof of the high level of aesthetic attainment of the many Muslim nations throughout an extensive period culminating in contemporary creations. It is imperative to point out that Islamic Calligraphy is an art per se and that it covers both religious and secular works. Their application being totally unrestricted, they are done in multi-media ranging from inscriptions on paper or vellum to architectural decorations (wood and stone carving, mosaic or ceramic decoration, stucco) to woven textiles (initially manufactured by the Copts in Egypt) and in the form and decoration of the humble pot.

All these artifacts figure in the present exhibition which is the fourth attempt of the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire de Genève to expose the Orientalist tradition that is housed in the many reputable private collections found in Geneva to a wide public. In 1981 they presented "Islamic Ceramics in Geneva Collections" followed in 1984 by "Islam and Figurative Art" going on to a vast and comprehensive exhibition in 1985, the first of its kind, encompassing all media, all styles and all territories of Islam. "The Treasures of Islam." Huge crowds from all over the world flocked in and left astounded at the variety, richness and excellence of the works. Their fourth exhibition "Islamic Calligraphy, Sacred and Secular Writings" has come to us today bearing with it items from the collections of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Hashem Khosrovan, Rifaat Sheikh El-Ard, Jean Paul Croisier, Bashir Mohammed and Said Zulficar.

The arrangement and study of the whole project was done under the expertise of David James, Islamic curator of the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin (home of an extensive collection of Islamic manuscripts), and Francois Deroche, Research Fellow at the Max van Berchem Foundation in Geneva.

On entering the exhibition one can find posters bearing a short expose on Islamic Calligraphy by David James in which he explains the association of the script with Koranic scripture and therefore its sanctification; the 'raison d'être' behind its fast but highly aesthetic development. "A canon of perfection existed," he explains "the calligrapher aspired to it and rarely departed from it." He goes

on to say that years of practice are necessary to enable the calligrapher to acquire and cultivate this discipline. He compares this artistic attainment, to a great symphony "frozen" on the page before us, he also compares the Firman of Suleiman the Magnificent to a cascade of staccato notes across the piano keyboard.

Other posters hung within the exhibition hall offer a brief expose of the history of Islam in the Arab lands, Persia, Turkey and India.

Variety in styles and materials

From the Arab lands we find a great variety of styles and materials. A 9th century portion of a wooden frieze (originally 2 kilometers in length) comes from the ceiling of the mosque of Ibn Tulun in Egypt, with foliated Kufic script carved on it in low relief. A fragment of a 9th-10th century poem is written on papyrus (paper was introduced by China after the 8th century), it shows the early development of the Naskhi script in secular writings. One of the masterpieces of Islam for its simplicity and abstraction is a 9th century bowl of Tin-glazed earthenware from Mesopotamia. Brush-painted foliated Kufic in-

scription enters its rim through the cavetto (concavity of the bowl) only to stop short at the centre. The asymmetry and simplicity of this work makes our mind hover between Japanese design and modern art.

Thraze or fragments of woven textiles; an extension of Coptic weaving in Egypt, bear religious invocations sometimes written from right to left and repeated upside down from left to right (not in a mirror image) woven in Kufic script which lends itself best to the weave. It is done with silk thread on linen. Its repetitious verticals often create imposing rhythms. Wool is also woven into the linen in which case the letters tend to be larger.

A square panel with coloured mosaic tiles belongs to a wall of a Madrasah of 15th century Egypt and bears the basmalah and Shahada in black Kufic script around which a yellow interlace entwines itself, all that on a red and black ground.

Pages from the Koran appear in a number of styles. Some from North Africa are painted in gouache and gold on vellum others from 13th century Granada are painted with ink, gouache and gold on paper, in Maghrebi

script. Others from Baghdad (circa 1315) bear the Muhaqqaq-Rayhan script in black ink with an ornate ornament in the margin. A Damascene Koran in Muhaqqaq bears miniature inscriptions in its margin often making the corner while beautiful illuminations decorate the end of each Sura. It contrasts with an entirely undecorated 14th century Cairo Koran painted in golden Thuluth, totally bereft of decoration. Finally, a 1985-6 modern calligraphic composition painted in the United States exhibits Muhaqqaq and Thuluth script, written in a variety of sizes, flanked by a couple of vividly colored roundels (seemingly Persian 14th century).

Among the collection of works from Iran, Afghanistan and central Asia is the Samarkand earthenware dish covered with white slip, on which Kufic Calligraphy is painted with black slip and is covered with a transparent overglaze. The calligraphy in this case circumscribes, on the rim, an open space, its vertical lines pointing in to a central point. The subject in such cases is a proverb or moral aphorism against avastice etc.

A fragment of a marble frieze from 12th century Ghazni, Afghanistan bears two underlined rows of inscription, the above one in ornate foliated Kufic script, the lower one in a mixture of Thuluth and Kufic. Most interesting is a fragment of a talismanic scroll (protecting against calamities) from Cairo, 1360. Another from Turkey stands beside its embroidered velvet container.

A steel plaque carved in an almost filigree-like openwork bears a Shirite poem in Thuluth script surrounded by fine linear Arabesques. Such work entailed cutting out with drills, saws and files very much in the manner used in 16th century Ispahan.

Calligraphy

Calligraphic manuscripts of this area ranged from the simple 15th century Iranian Korans in Muhaqqaq script, with a contained design in the enclosed margin, to elaborate works such as the manuscript from 16th century Meshed where the most magnificent examples of calligraphy were commissioned by Prince Ibrahim-Mirza, or album pages from Bukhara both painted in Nasta'liq (hanging script: often drawn

diagonally and encircled by a halo). It includes miniature floral motifs and is divided into a variety of coloured sections. Such manuscripts are often signed. The album page from Bukhara covers only part of a larger cardboard piece to which it is stuck asymmetrically. On such a frame we often see monochromatic designs of flowers and birds, often in gold, or a marbling effect. In some manuscripts the ground behind the calligraphy could be illuminated in gold with repetitive floral Arabesques swirling around.

Exquisite examples of 19th century Persian calligraphy done in a bold sweeping horizontal Nasta'liq stands on a background filled with tiny human and animal

figures (farm animals) done by Ismail Jalayir. This technique is the exact opposite of the one used in the next manuscript, done in the Gulzar (full of flowers) technique whereby the script itself is filled with tiny figures (mainly monochromatic).

From Turkey we find the renowned Tughra, the official monogram of the Sultan bearing both his name and his father's in Diwani script. It stands atop a firman decreed by Sultan Suleiman (1520-1566) (remember the allusion to the Staccato notes!). Other pages from Ottoman Korans can be seen with their embossed leather binding 19th century calligraphic compositions show invocations painted in a style derived from the Tughra

(imperial monogram) creating impulsive curvaceous rhythms while taking advantage of the variety of thicknesses that a flat nib can produce. Another calligraphic composition comes to us from Akka, Palestine, where a Bahai calligrapher used an interlacing Thuluth within the form of two peacocks creating a mirror image. Each peacock holds a manuscript written in the Shikasta script (broken, Persio script).

From India we find a marble tombstone from Gujarat (1300) covered with a low relief of informal Thuluth script. On top, we can see a tiny, deeply-carved Mihrab which looks Hindu rather than Muslim. Korans decorated by the famous Mir Ali Heravi of

Herat, Afghanistan during the Mughal Empire can also be seen in this exhibition.

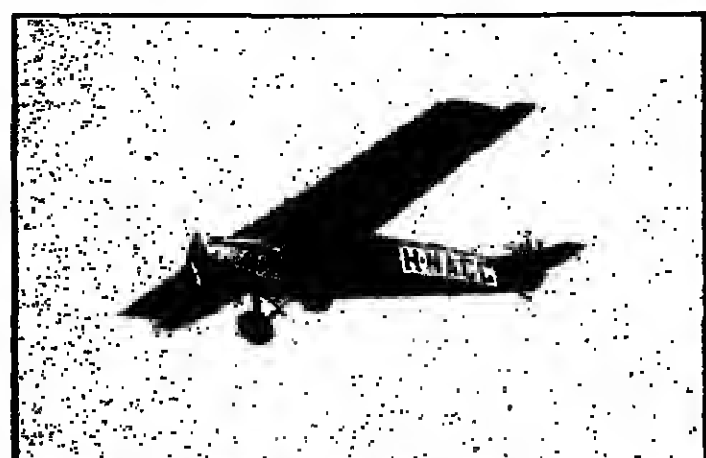
The Chased brass seal with an ebony handle belonging to the Mughal Emperor of India, Shah Jahan comes to us from 17th century Agra.

From 19th century India, we can see an overwhelmingly striking Talisman painted in very thick stylised Kufic script fitting tightly into triangular and semicircular panels forming the shape of a mihrab. It refers to the eyes of evil men that see the believer as possessed or mad.

To see this exhibition is obviously a must. It will go on till mid-November. Special thanks go to Princess Wijdan Ali who made such valuable pieces available for us to see on our native soil. We are proud to see the name of Amman appear in line with Geneva, Dublin, London and Zurich in the superbly arranged catalogue that accompanies the exhibit and which is being sold in the premises.

KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines)

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The story of KLM as told by Mr. N. Fakhonry General Manager of KLM in Jordan.

KLM emerged victorious with the longest record of public service among airlines in the world. Founded on Oct. 7, 1919, the Royal Dutch Airlines has extended its services, increased the number of its aircraft and reached more and more places in the world. After 70 years, KLM has found its place in history. The first flight by KLM was on May 17, 1920 from London to Amsterdam.

In KLM's first year of operation, the airline had four aircraft, flew a distance of 82,000 kms, transported 345 passengers and 22,000 kgs of cargo. Today, KLM owns 73 aircraft plus 11 helicopters, including subsidiaries NLM City Hopper, Netherlines and KLM Helicopters. It reaches 141 destinations in 77 countries and has transported 6.9 million passengers and 443,000 tons of

freight and mail in 1989 alone.

The first phase of KLM's development was shaped by the personalities of two young Dutch entrepreneurs who saw the golden opportunities offered by the then new means of transport — the "aeroplane."

Albert Plesman, was a young officer pilot in the Dutch Air Force and used the platform of the first aeronautical show in Amsterdam in 1919 to promote his visionary ideas for commercial exploitation of aircraft. He became KLM's first president and held his post until his untimely death on December 31, 1953. Anthony Fokker was an aircraft designer and worked closely with Plesman to design passenger aircrafts which would meet KLM's requirements as regards reliability, comfort and economy.

Dutch interests in the Far East and the Caribbean were an important

factor in the pioneering activities that began only four years after KLM's first scheduled flight. On October 1, 1924, the first experimental flight departed for the former Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia.

The technical and operational experience gained formed the basis for the subsequent start in September 1929 of scheduled flights on what was to be the longest regularly operated service until the outbreak of the second world war, during which KLM's aircraft were nearly all lost and Schiphol airport near Amsterdam lay in ruins.

But dedication and ingenuity brought KLM back on its feet and on May 21, 1946, KLM was the first continental European airline to start service to the U.S. after the war. September 7th of this year marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of

Plesman, the driving force behind the founding of KLM and the initiator of air travel in the Netherlands.

In order to successfully withstand the challenge of competition, KLM's strategy is directed to combine forces, concentrate on core activities, investing in order to create the strongest possible starting position, strengthening KLM's European and international distribution and market positions.

Throughout its seven decades of service, KLM has seen continuous growth thanks to its constant striving for optimal customer oriented quality. The customer judges KLM by its quality. Quality itself influences the choice of the customer. This explains KLM's mission to position itself as a leading European airline, ranking amongst the world's top three quality carriers.

Priest produces film about slain Central American archbishop

By David Schulze
Reuters

MONTREAL — El Salvador's Archbishop Oscar Romero was murdered at his altar in 1980, just after delivering a sermon on the need to end political violence in the war-ravaged Central American country.

Now his life is the subject of a film made by Los Angeles-based producer and priest Ellwood Kieser, who introduced it at the recent Montreal world film festival.

"Romero" stars Puerto Rican-born actor Raul Julia in the lead role and was directed by Australian John Duigan, best known for

"the year my voice broke." The film, which opened across the United States this month, traces Romero's transition from a bookish, apolitical priest to an ardent defender of the poor and of human rights and his emergence finally as an opponent of his country's rightist government.

After delivering a homily calling on Salvadorean soldiers to refuse orders to shoot at their countrymen, he was assassinated while celebrating mass by a gunman believed to be linked to the military.

The film is open in its criticism of the Salvadorean military, who are shown to be responsible for rape, murder, torture and for Romer-

o's assassination. But like Romero himself, the film steers clear of endorsing the left-wing guerrillas who have taken up arms against the government.

"The basic problem in El Salvador is deep economic injustice," says Kieser, who believes those problems can be solved without violence.

However, at the end of the movie, one young priest leaves to join the guerrillas, a character Kieser says is based on two priests who are currently guerrilla commanders.

When a reporter questioned a scene in which a priest is shown brandishing a rifle, Julia said that priests in Central America have

taken up arms "because they believed that was the solution — but Romero was not for that, Romero was for non-violence."

The idea for a film on Romero's life originated with screenwriter John Sacret Young. He sent Kieser a clipping about the assassination four days after it happened, with a note that said: "This would make a great movie-of-the-week."

Kieser's religious order, the Paulists, specialises in serving those outside the Catholic Church and his non-profit company, Paulist productions, has been responsible for a number of television series, specialists and films.

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GCC, Iraq stand for a boom

Demand for oil soars

LONDON (R) — The West is failing to keep up its emergency stocks of oil to match a sudden jump in petroleum consumption, according to the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA), its energy watchdog.

The IEA brought out new estimates Thursday confirming a judgement in July that oil demand is now about back where it was at the market's historic peak in 1979.

World consumption outside the communist nations was expected to be 52.1 million barrels per day (b/d) in 1989, the IEA said, firming up a July estimate of around 52 million.

That is a gain of 1.2 million b/d on last year and about equal with 1979 — just before worldwide oil demand was sent tumbling in reaction to prices as high as \$40 per barrel.

Weaker demand forced prices down in the middle of the decade. Now, weak prices are helping demand back up again.

But IEA said oil stocks in the 24 industrial nations of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as of Oct. 1, were down to 92 days' forward cover.

That compares with 95 days a year ago, and is the lowest at the start of the northern autumn since the 1970s.

A big difference between today and 1979, when a cut in Iran's exports

at a time of surging demand made it possible for OPEC (The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) to send prices to \$40, is that OPEC's contribution to supply is now much smaller.

OPEC output, the IEA said Thursday, has now rebounded to 22.3 million b/d, from around 16 million in 1985.

But this is still way under the output of around 30 million which OPEC was supplying at the end of the 1970s. The balance is being made up by new production outside OPEC control which was brought on stream in the West and the Third World when prices were high.

As weaker prices revive demand, however, with the present average around \$17, a tighter market is in prospect so that consumers will be more vulnerable to hiccups in supply.

Peter Nicol, who follows oil for London finance house S.G. Warburg Securities, notes that almost all producers except Saudi Arabia and Venezuela are back pumping close to present capacity.

"Stocks in terms of days forward cover have not kept in line with rising demand," Nicol said,

"especially when you consider that a bigger proportion of crude oil used by the United States, for instance, is now imported and is coming from farther afield."

He said stocks were expensive for oil companies to carry but the policy seemed to be one "of cutting stocks to the bone."

Nicol's scenario was still for slightly lower oil prices in 1990 — the IEA sees the rise in demand slowing a bit in line with weaker economic expansion — but with "significant upside if demand has been underestimated or supply is disrupted."

A surge in world demand for oil during the 1990s will help Gulf producers resume a pivotal role in the international market as well as boosting their economies, a senior Gulf economist said in a report published Wednesday.

Gulf International Bank economist Henry Azzam said with more than 65 per cent of the world's known oil reserves, the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and neighbouring Iran and Iraq would reap the benefits of growing demand for oil in the 1990s.

The GCC groups OPEC members Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates with non-OPEC Bahrain and Oman.

OPEC was expected to keep oil prices at competitively low levels to consolidate recent gains and discourage conservation and development of alternative energy resources, Azzam said.

This would encourage projected growth in oil consumption and bring a larger market share for OPEC, boosting the revenues of member states — especially from the Gulf, he added.

"Excess supply conditions in the world oil market are expected to prevail in the early part of the next decade maintaining downward pressure on oil prices," Azzam said.

"A gradual improvement in the region's oil revenues will then follow as the world becomes increasingly more dependent on oil from the Gulf," he added.

Azzam predicted that although oil prices would not exceed \$18 per barrel in the next two years, they would rise above \$24 by 1995 and break through the \$30 barrier early in the following decade.

OPEC's share of world production would exceed 50 per cent in the year 2000, returning to 1970s levels, he said.

"Higher world demand for oil, stronger economic growth, less conservation of energy and substitution of alternative energy resources and the slowing down in growth of non-OPEC supplies are manifestations of these changes," Azzam said.

Azzam said GCC governments had identified mobilisation of private resources, economic diversification and creating jobs for the growing number of young nationals as priorities in the next decade.

European interest rates go up

FRANKFURT (Agencies) — West Germany raised two key interest rates Thursday to head off inflation in a move swiftly followed by France, Britain, Switzerland and five other central banks.

The Bundesbank, West Germany's central bank, announced after its governing council met that its discount and Lombard emergency funding rates would each rise one percentage point, to six and eight per cent respectively, effective immediately.

The move reflected concern among West German monetary authorities that inflation, now a meagre three per cent, might start to rise under the impact of a surging economy and industry stretched to capacity.

The Bundesbank said the move was needed to control prices and maintain the strength of the mark.

The move had been expected in currency markets in recent days and was seen as helping West Germany maintain a strong mark against the U.S. dollar.

The move was followed immediately by the Bank of England, which raised a key money market intervention rate by one point to 15 per cent, a clear sign it expects Britain's commercial banks to raise their base lending rates by the same amount.

In Paris, the Bank of France raised its intervention rates on the domestic money market by three quarters of a per cent to 9.5 per cent.

The Swiss National Bank also said that its discount rate would be raised half a percentage point to six per cent.

The Bundesbank last raised interest rates by half a percentage point on June 29 out of similar concern about inflation, and was

then swiftly followed by rates rises in Switzerland, France, Austria, Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Such is the pivotal role West Germany plays in the European economy that similar moves across Europe had been expected.

But rates are already high in Italy and Rome might try to maintain them at current levels, economists said.

British rates were already above the norm with a base rate of 14 per cent. The increase was hard for the authorities to swallow but was designed to stop a run on sterling, already depressed by a series of a bad monthly trade figures.

It was humiliating for Britain's ruling Conservative Party, which is expected to trumpet the virtues of the free market at a party conference this week. Industrialists bitterly oppose any increase.

A general European-wide interest rate rise would help monetary authorities defend their currencies against the dollar, which has been knocked down in the past two weeks by concerted central bank intervention in markets worldwide.

Intervention has been the main tool used by the authorities to bring the dollar down from highs of more than two marks and 149 yen to around 1.88 and 141 at present.

But a European interest rate increase would narrow differential with relatively high U.S. rates, one of the main reasons for the dollar's surge this year, and help maintain a lid on the dollar, the economists said.

Economists believe the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) will not join the fight against the currency by easing its monetary policy.

"We don't think the Fed will lower rates," said Jack Breen at BNY Securities Inc. "If anything, the Bundesbank's one-percentage-point rise in rates signals the Fed was unwilling to go along with a coordinated rate move."

"Why ease at this stage?" said James Fralick of Morgan Stanley and Co. "The economy doesn't look that soft. In fact, the employment numbers may show continued growth."

"The dollar's off its highs," Fralick added. "If the Fed eased, the dollar could fall sharply and stimulate exports, causing some (capacity) strains in export industries."

Despite the European moves, the Fed will not lower rates because it has shown a preference for U.S. economic issues and not the dollar, economists said.

"Their policy is dominated by domestic concerns," said Kristin Foster at Citicorp Investment Bank. "All of the (central) banks are responding to domestic factors."

In addition, the Bundesbank's move could give the Fed some breathing room by luring investors from the dollar. The rate rise was double that expected by the financial markets.

"It gives the Fed the flexibility to not ease and even raise our rates in the fourth quarter if the economy shows strength," Fralick said.

If the Fed does anything, it will change only the benchmark federal funds rate, or what banks charge each other for overnight loans, economists said.

Critics called the German and British increases heavy-handed. They "could be dangerous to the economy and could be too high," said Peter Fietisch, an economist with Commerzbank in

Frankfurt.

John Banham, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, called them "wholly unnecessary."

"High interest rates have done their job by curbing overheating in the economy, and this further rise will be counterproductive," he said.

West Germany's economy is growing at a rate of 4.5 per cent compared with the previous two per cent, said David Morrison, an economist at Goldman Sachs International Corp. in London.

He speculated that West Germany wanted to get interest rate increases out of the way well before a 1990 national election.

"This probably reflects a peak for interest rates," he said.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson told British Broadcasting Corp. radio that the increase was "extremely awkward." But he said, "it's necessary to do the right thing."

The repeated interest rate increases since the summer of 1988 have squeezed Britain's homeowners, most of whom hold adjustable-rate mortgages.

Abbey National, Britain's second-biggest lender, immediately warned that its mortgage rates of 12.95 per cent and 13.5 per cent would have to go up, probably from Nov. 1.

A one-percentage-point increase in the mortgage rate adds £48 (\$77) a month to a 25-year £75,000 (\$120,000) mortgage.

Lawmaker John Smith, the opposition Labour Party's spokesman on trade, said: "This is appalling news. For millions of mortgage payers and for businesses all over Britain living costs will rise and investment will become even more expensive."

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, October 5, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	619.9	625.9	97.5
Pound Sterling	996.8	1006.8	440.0
Deutschmark	330.9	334.2	293.0
Swiss franc	382.2	386.0	96.4
			97.4
			45.2
			45.7
			157.1
			158.7

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Sept. 30-Oct. 4	Sept. 23-27
Daily average	JD 2,249,068	JD 1,447,272
Total volume	JD 11,245,342	JD 7,236,359
Total shares	4,699,140	3,382,970
No. of contracts	5,369	4,489
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 6,930,179 (61.61%)	JD 5,251,824 (72.6%)
Financial	JD 3,138,760 (27.9%)	JD 1,269,144 (17.5%)
Service	(9.8%)	(8.1%)
Insurance	(0.7%)	(1.8%)
Share price index	129.2	128.2
No. of companies	59	60
Price movement (rise)	33	23
(decline)	17	28
(stable)	9	9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6065/75	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1770/80	Canadian dollar
	1.8885/92	Deutschmarks
	2.1318/25	Dutch guilders
	1.6420/30	Swiss francs
	39.68/72	Belgian francs
	6.3960/4010	French francs
	1382/1383	Italian lire
	142.70/80	Japanese yen
	6.4675/4725	Swedish crowns
	6.9700/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.3600/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	363.50/364.00	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKS

SYDNEY — Australian shares ended the day barely changed after drifting in directionless trading. The All Ordinaries index closed 7.71 at 1773.2.

TOKYO — Fees about higher interest rates battered stocks with thrust funds dumping shares. The Nikkei index sank 313.64 points to close at 35,209.35.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's Hang Seng index closed 23.04 points up at a post-June 4 high of 2,826.21. Dealers said concerns over the political situation in China, which crushed pro-democracy students on June 4, were easing.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed firmer across the board with continued buying support and bargain hunting by both institutions and small investors. The Straits Times industrial index rose 8.17 points to 1,413.15.

FRANKFURT — Shares were firmer on the belief that Thursday's rise in the Bundesbank's key interest rate was sufficient action for the near future. The real-time 30-share DAX index rose 8.65 to 1,624.86.

ZURICH — Prices were steady to firmer. Selective foreign and local buying provided most of the momentum. The all-share Swiss performance index gained 4.5 to 1,194.3.

PARIS — Share prices were steady, reflecting confidence in the French economy in spite of a wave of strikes and Thursday's round of European interest rate rises.

LONDON — Thursday's rise in interest rates continued to depress shares tied to consumer spending. At 1553 GMT the FTSE index was 4.2 points lower at 2,277.4.

NEW YORK — Soft U.S. jobs data raised hopes of lower interest rates. Bond prices gained and at 1600 the Dow Jones industrials were up 14.81 points to 2,788.37.

U.S. expects lower trade deficit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher said Thursday the U.S. foreign trade deficit is likely to shrink to between \$100 billion and \$110 billion this year, with Japan accounting for about half of that imbalance.

Through the first seven months of the year, the trade deficit has been running at an annual rate of \$105.8 billion, down 11 per cent from the 1988 deficit of \$118.5 billion.

The trade deficit for this year is improving at exactly half the pace of last year, when the gap between imports and exports fell by 22 per cent, down from a record \$152.12 billion in 1987.

Mosbacher predicted that the deficit with Japan would total \$50 billion this year.

Japan is the "prime target" of administration efforts to lower the imbalance, Mosbacher said in testimony before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

In a separate congressional appearance, U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills was also blunt about the need for Japan to

do more to open its markets.

"Japan is an economic superpower, but they must contribute to the system and not just take from it," Hills said.

Meanwhile, orders to U.S. factories for manufactured goods rebounded 2.9 per cent in August after falling in July to their lowest level in eight months, the government has reported.

The report was the latest in a string of indicators showing that the nation's economy continued to grow modestly last summer, despite earlier fears that efforts to control inflation could steer it into a recession.

If the July weakness in manufacturing had persisted, it could have led to layoffs and a rise in the unemployment rate.

The Commerce Department said orders for both durable and non-durable manufactured goods totalled a seasonally adjusted \$237.2 billion following a 2.0 per cent decline in July to the lowest level since last November.

Orders rose 0.6 per cent in June. Shipments of manufactured goods rose 5.6 per cent, the sharpest increase in the current economic expansion that began in 1982.

Shipments had fallen 2.3 per cent in July, the sharpest fall since March 1986.

Inventories, on the other hand, gained only 0.3 per cent, the smallest increase in two years. Inventories posted a 1.2 per cent gain in July, the biggest jump in five years.

If inventories increase without a corresponding gain in new orders, it could signal production cutbacks in the future as factories attempt to get rid of goods on shelves and backlogs.

However, unfilled orders declined 0.3 per cent, the first drop since a 0.1 per cent fall in February 1987, indicating decreased demand for goods.

Orders for durable goods, "big-ticket" items expected to last more than three years rose 3.9 per cent in August. That was a slight revision of the Commerce Department report last week that durable goods orders, boosted by robust automobile sales, had rebounded 3.8 per cent for their steepest advance this year.

Orders for non-durable goods advanced 1.8 per cent.

Gillette sharpens shaving war

NEW YORK (R) — Gillette Co. has unleashed its new blade in the shaving war: the \$200 million high-tech "sensor" razor.

Company officials predicted the razor, whose twin blades sit on spring mounts, will capture a significant piece of the shaving business in just three years.

Sensor is the high-stakes culmination of a decade-long development and retooling programme for Gillette. It is the Boston-based company's bid to revive the business that made it rich by winning back men who have been chucking reusable blades in favour of cheap, disposable razors.

Gillette relies on shavers and blades for most of its profits and controls nearly two-thirds of the U.S. market for shaving products, industry analysts say.

And while it has managed to win a big share of the market for disposable razors, that business is far less profitable than selling reusable shavers and blades.

Sensor "will launch a new era in shaving," said John Symons, president of Gillette North Atlantic shaving group.

Company officials said Gillette expects to sell 55 million of the razors in three years at an average retail price of \$3.75 apiece, translating to revenues of about \$206 million over that period.

Sensor should command a 15 per cent share of the shaving market by its third year, the company said.

While Sensor is widely viewed as a big gamble for Gillette — it spent 10 years on the project — Symons downplayed the stakes involved.

Of the \$200 million spent, some \$150 million was used to update and expand manufacturing equipment, he said.

Gillette, whose founder, King C. Gillette, invented the reusable safety razor, also sells some of the best-known dental, cosmetic and other personal products in the world, including Papermate and Flair pens, Right Guard Deodorant and Oral B Toothbrushes.

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CAEU panels issue results

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) sub-committee on statistics Thursday stressed the importance of accelerating efforts to build a pan-Arab information network on transport, communications and telecommunications, based on a comprehensive data base.

At the conclusion of its meetings here, the sub-committee called for strengthening cooperation with the Central Arab Bureau for Statistics and Documentation.

The committee also called for overcoming all difficulties facing the smooth application to the computer technology in office works and stressed the need for holding a symposium entitled "Towards an Integrated Arab System for Environmental Statistics" during the second half of the year 1990.

Also Thursday, the CAEU's committee on customs, planning and coordination of trade concluded its meetings and adopted a number of recommendations designed to promote commercial exchange among Arab countries.

The committee recommended that lists of commodities suitable for commercial exchange be drawn up before the end of this year and be sent to the CAEU's general secretariat.

The committee also adopted another recommendation, calling for developing methods of setting payments among the member states and broadening the base of customs exemptions.

The committee further called for giving priority to the occupied territories products and for facilitating their entry and marketing.

The committee called for the formation of a three-expert team to prepare the unified settlements directly and other customs directories during the year 1990.

Jordan, Yemen discuss ties in telecommunications



Mohammad Shahid Ismail, AMMAN (Petra) — Telecommunications Corporation Director-General Mohammad Shahid Ismail discussed in Sanaa Thursday scopes of telecommunications cooperation between Jordan and the Yemen Arab Republic.

Upon arrival in Sanaa, Ismail met with the Yemeni Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Al Khadem and senior telecommunication officials with whom he discussed means of enhancing bilateral cooperation, in implementation of resolutions adopted recently by the Arab Cooperation Council's Higher Committee.



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MEPOT

EATAB

TRAUGI

LESPEN

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: ARRAY GAVEL EMBODY VERSUS

Answer: A man who claims he never makes a mistake isn't this—VERY BUSY

Peanuts

SO, MONSIEUR... I AM TOLD THAT YOU ARE THE FAMOUS FLYING ACE...

YOU ARE SO FAMOUS THAT THE RED BARON SAYS HE MUST DESTROY YOU!

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ME...

SURELY YOU REMEMBER ME, J.B. KOLDBOTTOM, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE FROM UPPSTATE!

OH, COME NOW! DON'T YOU REMEMBER?—I MARRIED YOU TWENTY YEARS AGO!

JEFF IS THIS TRUE? THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE SAID HE MARRIED YOU TWENTY YEARS AGO!

MUTT, I SWEAR, THAT GUY'S A NUT! I DON'T EVER REMEMBER MARRYING A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE!

WE GET LATER AND LATER, ANDY—SO?

I BET FLO ANY RUBIE WILL BE WAITING UP TO GIVE US A LECTURE!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT RUBIE, BUT I'M SURE FLO WILL BE, CHALKIE.

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, RUBIE LEFT WITH LITTLE OR NOTHING TO SAY—BUT INSISTS ON SAYING IT ALL, ANYWAY.

Andy Capp

Charity walk draws hundreds

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Hundreds of people Friday participated in a charity walk despite the heat and a strong head wind. Travelling across hilly areas, the participants pushed themselves beyond their capabilities enduring strains and pains to their muscles. Some, no doubt, joined for the exercise, others joined to pass the Friday off. But most joined for "the cause" in support of the disabled in Jordan.

The money obtained from the walk — JD 5 from each participant will go to the disabled children in the refugee camps of Jerash, Hama, Saf and Raga'a as well as to support archaeology in Jordan.

Friends of Archaeology and sponsored by Intercontinental Hotel, Royal Jordanian, and Zara Company, which produce bathmats and such Dead Sea products for the treatment of the disabled.

In total, the distance was 13 kilometres of uphill, downhill and straight roads. The walk started at the archaeological site of Rajm Al Kurat. Along the way more archaeological sites were seen by dehydrated and sunstruck bodies who stopped at each place to observe Amman's historical background. Pictures and information about Amman's past were shown at stopovers along the way. There were three stops at each three and a half kilometres for snacks and refreshments to keep the participants going.

Arriving at the finish at Rajm Al Kurat, where the round tower is located, the best kept in Jordan, participants felt so good that they had completed the whole 13 kilometres.

"It was good to know that all the people had one thing in common — the cause," said one breathless lady as she came to the finish.

"It is a nice way to get all the people together for a cause, for the exercise and for the education in seeing archaeological sites," said a participant who never misses out on such events.

"It is a way of meeting people and a way of lending a helping hand to those less fortunate like the handicapped, who also participate very enthusiastically," a young man agreed.

Johnson: Learn from my mistake

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ben Johnson, who lost his Olympic gold medal last year after testing positive for steroid use, has urged young athletes not to make the same mistake.

"I got caught in Seoul. I lost my gold medal," Johnson said at a congressional news conference Thursday to introduce legislation that would classify anabolic steroids as a controlled substance.

"I'm here to tell the people of this country it's wrong to cheat, not to take it. It's bad for your health," he said.

Johnson, who also had his world record in the 100 metres taken away after admitting he had used steroids, had to share the limelight with his chief rival, Carl Lewis.

Lewis, who sat among the reporters, said he is working on his

autobiography and decided to attend the news conference because one of the chapters deals with steroids.

"I think it's great," he said of the legislation. "They're making a move and it's very positive. I'm happy to see it."

"I don't understand why Ben Johnson's here," he added. Lewis said he hadn't spoken to Johnson since Johnson's gold medal was taken away and given to Lewis after the Canadian star tested positive.

Lewis said he would like to run against Johnson again "if he comes back and he's clean."

While Lewis was talking to reporters during a vote on the House of Representatives floor, Johnson slipped away to adjoining congressional offices.

Ajax banned for 2 years

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Ajax Amsterdam, the most famous Dutch soccer club, was banned for two seasons of European competition Thursday after an iron bar thrown from the stands hit an Austrian goalkeeper at a European Cup game last week.

The first-round second-leg UEFA Cup game against Austria Vienna, which was abandoned Sept. 27 in overtime after the incident, was ruled a 3-0 forfeit victory for the Austrians, disqualifying Ajax from this season's European tournament.

Ajax can appeal the ruling by UEFA's control and disciplinary committee until Monday, a UEFA statement said.

UEFA's ban, the first for a Dutch club in some 30 years of European Cup history, applies only to seasons in which the club would qualify for European competition on the basis of its performance in the national championship or cup.

Ajax, a three-time European Champions Cup winner, could thus be out of Europe for more than just the next two seasons.

The committee, headed by Italian jurist Alberto Barbé, said the match incidents were "grave."

The ruling, based on reports from referee Bruno Galler and a UEFA match observer, was announced after a relatively brief one-hour session by the committee. Its decisions can be challenged in a UEFA appeals jury.

If the ruling stands, Austria Vienna advances to the second round of the UEFA Cup, where it will face West Germany's Werder Bremen.

Ajax is expected to appeal. Its chairman Michael van Praag said before the session that it was the first incident of its kind since Ajax has played in European soccer since 1957.

A more lenient alternative to the UEFA's ruling could have been a stadium ban or a heavy fine.

English clubs have been banned from UEFA tournaments since 1985 after a riot hamed on English fans at a Champions' Cup final at Heysel Stadium in Brussels.

The ruling was made just over a year after the Dutch national squad triumphed at the 1988 European championship.

Federation Cup: West Germans crash out

TOKYO (R) — A valiant solo effort by world number one Steffi Graf on Friday failed to stall Czechoslovakia in their defence of the Federation Cup women's team tennis championship.

Third-seeded Czechoslovakia beat fifth seeds West Germany 2-1 in the quarter-finals to earn a semifinal showdown with the top-ranked United States, who romped to a merciless 3-0 triumph over Austria.

Jana Novotna drew first blood for Czechoslovakia with a convincing 6-3, 6-5 win over Claudia Kohde-Kilsch.

But Graf obliterated Helena Sukova 6-2, 6-1 in just 38 minutes to put the sides on level terms going into the doubles.

Her efforts were in vain, Sukova and Novotna, the world's top women's doubles pairing, rolled over the German duo like a well-oiled machine 6-2, 6-2.

"Everywhere we were hitting they had hands," said Kohde-Kilsch, who looked ponderous and often half-hearted during the

50-minute match.

Graf blamed the Germans' humiliation partly on the fact they had not played together since last year's Seoul Olympics.

"There was maybe a little missing with us," she said. "In the doubles things are much more difficult... It depends also on your partner."

But it was Graf who left the side down first in the doubles, winning just one point on her opening serve in the second game of the match.

Novotna and Sukova, who practice and play together regularly, then got the better of

some fast volley exchanges at the net to break the Germans again in the seventh game.

The second set looked academic as the Czechoslovaks exploited almost every gap in West Germany's defence.

Czechoslovakia have won the Federation Cup five times but they can expect a rough ride against the United States who are seeking a record 13th victory.

Chris Evert, in fine form on her last appearance for the United States, made no mistake about her 6-1, 6-0 victory over Austria's Judith Wiesner.

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Ruud Gullit set to train again

MILAN, Italy (R) — Dutch international Ruud Gullit may resume training next week after a four month absence through injury, which will further boost European champions AC Milan following the news of compatriot Marco van Basten's imminent return after surgery. Officials of the Italian club said Wednesday that Gullit, dogged by a knee injury since April, had telephoned club president Silvio Berlusconi from Amsterdam to say he was sure specialists would pronounce his knee mended next week.

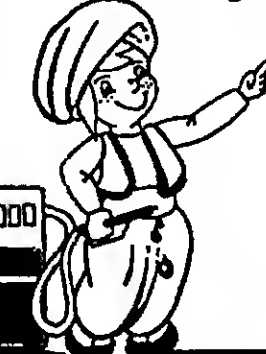
Gullit, who has not played since he masterminded Milan's European Cup final win against Steaua Bucharest on May 24, is due to see a Belgian specialist next Monday.

He told Berlusconi he could resume training immediately and could cut down the time it would take him to get match fit, the club officials said.

Berlusconi said he hoped Gullit would have recaptured his sharpness in time for Milan's Italian league derby against champions Internazionale on November 19.

Striker van Basten, who had a knee operation on September 1, is due to return in a friendly Thursday and is expected to play at least part of Sunday's first division fixture against Cremonese.

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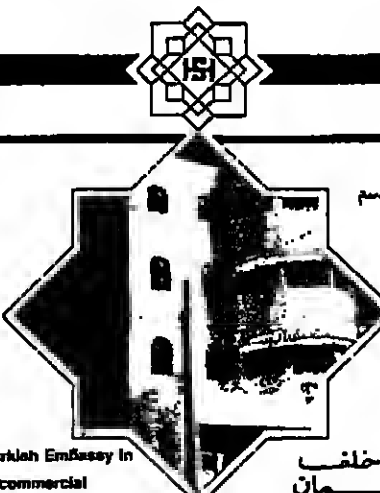
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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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A WORLD-CLASS ERROR

East-West vulnerable West deals.
NORTH
♠ QJ9
♥ AQJ65
♦ AQJ
♣ 62
WEST
♠ 7
♥ 8
♦ J8873
♣ AQ1094
EAST
♠ 10
♥ K9732
♦ K42
♣ 83

SOUTH
♠ AK1053
♥ 4
♦ 65
♣ KJ75

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1 NT Pass 2 NT
Pass 3 ♣ Pass 4 ♣
Pass 4 NT Pass 5 ♣
Pass 6 ♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♣
In 1988 the U.S. won the only world title that had so far eluded it—the World Team Olympiad. In the final, played after two weeks of grueling preliminary rounds, the U.S. defeated Austria in a match that produced less than error-free

bridge. Austria reached the terrible contract of six spades after the above auction. West was informed that the sequence showed six spades and five clubs. Since North surely had at least two clubs for his no trump opening bid, that meant the East could not have more than one club. West, therefore, led the ace of clubs and another, expecting his partner to ruff. When declarer won that trick with the jack, the contract could now have been made. Since West will show out on the second heart, the ruffing finesse against East becomes marked and declarer can dispose of his diamond loser. Declarer started off well enough with a heart to the ace and a heart back, but with a 5-to-1 shot of ruffing with the right card, he selected the three of trumps! That was just low enough for West to be able to overruff with the four for down one.

In the other room, the Americans were less aggressive. They played quietly in four spades, a contract that needed no special skill to be brought home. As a result, the U.S. gained substantially on this board.

THE Daily Crossword by Victor Jambor, Jr.

ACROSS
1 Panhandle
8 Killer whale
14 Adict bustle
15 Rhine feeder
16 Orchestra member
17 Viable
18 That can be chosen
19 Cabbage type
20 Short dirigible
21 Womanizer
22 Yoked oxen
23 Relative
24 Wine guy
25 DJ's staple
26 Mongrel
27 Prophetic
28 Recieve one's due
29 Resembling suit
30 Ludicrous
32 Within asenath
33 Wind dir.
41 Trigon
42 Loss track of
43 Lacked
44 Tootled
45 Treat harshly
46 Basket fiber
52 — the Red
53 Be dull
54 Horned viper
57 Tortoise
58 Seemingly valid
61 Dark
62 Dream Fr.
63 Turf figure
64 Sows
65 River to the North Sea
66 Intallible

DOWN
1 Singer Joan
2 Roof part
3 Hold fast
4 Holdable money
5 Convalescence
6 Contradict
7 Adriatic Hells
8 Fowl skin
9 Integers: abbr.
10 Incarnation
11 Two-way jacket
12 European
13 Impede
14 Sowsa teets
15 It, wine city
16 Play a like
17 Lower jaws
18 Platform
19 Unmindful
20 Motorist's org.
21 Mr. and —
22 Sept. river
23 Cole
24 Attention getter
25 Before
26 Night or Man
27 Food
28 Geometry name
29 Buffet Sets
30 Partisan oil
31 White wine
32 Alluring device
33 — Ben Adhem
34 Disparage
35 For —'s sake
36 Disinfective
37 Disparage
38 Media
39 Pronoun

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East Germans continue trek to the West

HANOVER, West Germany (AP) — A train carrying more than 600 East German refugees rolled into West Germany Friday after a similar exodus had been disrupted for several hours by thousands seeking to board the locked railcars.

The East Germans, chanting "Deutschland" and shouting thanks, left Warsaw, Poland, by train Thursday night on a trip via their communist homeland. They arrived in Laatzen, a Hanover suburb, nearly 14 hours later.

The 633 refugees, who were accompanied on the train by West German envoys, cheered, whistled and hugged each other when a local politician welcomed them as "countrymen."

They looked well-rested and more relaxed than those who arrived earlier in the week from Czechoslovakia.

West German officials and Red Cross workers readied temporary housing and other forms of care. Those aboard had crowded West Germany's embassy in Warsaw in hopes of joining the East Germans who have made their way through Hungary, Czechoslovakia or Poland since mid-September. More than 47,000 East Germans have left since then.

West German radio and television reported that as soon as the train left, about a dozen more East Germans entered West Germany's embassy in Warsaw in hopes of gaining permission to go West. They crossed into Poland legally in private cars, Hessischer Rundfunk radio said.

The ZDF television network said the train's original route was apparently changed to avoid a repeat of earlier riots at the East German city of Dresden, where East Germans tried to board the trains from Prague to the West as they passed through.

Passenger Lutz Kopecky, 29, said East German police and state security agents lined the route Thursday. Stations were empty and the train never slowed or stopped before reaching West Germany, he said in an interview.

Another 386 Germans who left via Hungary reached West Germany last Thursday, border police said.

The exodus comes as East Germany, deeply embarrassed by the flow of its citizens to the West, begins two days of celebrations marking the communist country's 40th anniversary.

Among those attending the festivities is Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is expected to discuss with East Germany's aging hard-line leaders how they plan to handle the Westward flight that is draining much of East Germany's work force.

West German radio said some people reportedly were "gravely injured" when East German police in Dresden prevented people from boarding trains heading West late Wednesday and early Thursday. Also, 150 injuries and 80 arrests reportedly occurred during a demonstration Monday in Leipzig by 20,000 East Germans.

The figures were cited at a prayer service in an East Berlin church late Thursday, the radio said without elaborating.

Poland contributed two extra cars to a six-car East German train sent to carry the refugees to West Germany, which grants them automatic citizenship and helps them start new lives.

Kaifu retains party presidency

TOKYO (AP) Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, in office less than two months, was assured of two more years as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party Friday when he registered as the only candidate for the post.

Thus, he will remain prime minister as long as the Liberal Democrats retain their majority in parliament, or until his term as party president expires in October 1991.

No other members of the Liberal Democratic Party filed papers to oppose Kaifu's candidacy by Friday at 11 a.m. (0200 GMT), when the application deadline passed, party officials said.

Kaifu, 58, will be formally declared party president without balloting at a party convention Oct. 31, they said.

"As of the application deadline, we have Mr. Kaifu alone as our candidate and therefore, Mr. Kaifu will be the winner without balloting," said Saisei Okuno, head of the Liberal Democrats' election management committee.

Kaifu, in a policy statement attached to his application for the candidacy, pledged to restore public trust toward the party and promote political reforms.

"The serious objective of the party now is to make politics trustworthy for the public and stabilize political situation," Kaifu said in a statement released Friday.

He also called for promoting dialogue with Communist bloc nations, contributing to preservation of the global environment

and combating the proliferation of drugs.

On Aug. 9, Kaifu was chosen as head of the party, and thus prime minister due to the party's overwhelming majority in parliament. He replaced Sosuke Uno, who stepped down to take responsibility for the party's loss of its majority in the Upper House of Parliament.

It was the first time the party lost control of a house of Parliament in all of its 34 years. Uno resigned after only two months in office. He followed Noboru Takeshita, who on June 2 resigned in disgrace because of links to a widespread influence-peddling scandal.

Although Kaifu has been in office less than two months, party rules require the president to face another election when his predecessor's term expires. Kaifu is currently serving the term originally given to Takeshita, who was elected in November 1987.

Although Kaifu was elected as party president with a wide margin over two other candidates, he had been seen as a short-term prime minister because he had never been regarded as possessing premier credentials nor the political support necessary to stay in power.

Kaifu belongs to a small faction of his party, and he has not held top cabinet or party posts, credentials generally required for the premiership.

The Liberal Democrats have been badly shaken by a series of bribery and sex scandals and strong public opposition to a new consumption tax.



Soldiers loyal to General Manuel Antonio Noriega patrolling Panama City streets after last week's attempted coup.

Panama soldiers take over opposition leader's office

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Government soldiers took over the office where former opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara had been on a hunger strike, but another opposition leader said Endara had escaped.

The troops moved in late Thursday after military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega vowed to crack down on the opposition following a coup attempt Tuesday.

Opposition leader Willie Cochez would not say how Endara was able to get out of the building before the soldiers moved in.

Endara's whereabouts were not known Thursday night. Cochez said the former presidential candidate, in the 16th day of a hunger strike, "is now in a safe place." He did not elaborate.

A resident living near the opposition coalition office where Endara had been staying said two truckloads of soldiers surrounded the block, stopped traffic and then entered the building, firing tear gas.

Security forces were at the building off and on for much of the day. Gunmen in civilian clothes fired shots in the air outside.

side the ground-floor corner office where Endara was staying, dispersing scores of supporters. Journalists were kept 200 metres from the scene.

As the troops moved in, AP photographer John Hopper was hit on the head, and the wound required stitches. Hopper's equipment was confiscated, as was that of a U.S. television network cameraman.

In a televised speech earlier Thursday, Noriega said he had evidence that if the coup had succeeded, the United States planned to install Endara as president. He castigated Washington, and ridiculed Endara.

"This hunger-striking buffoon sneaks out to eat so he can be well fed when he takes over the presidency," Noriega said.

International observers have said Endara won the May 7 presidential election, which was annulled by the government. Endara went on a hunger strike as part of an anti-government campaign.

Noriega, brandishing a rifle given him by supporters and quoting Spanish proverbs, promised "blows for the undecided, lead for the enemy and silver for

the friend." He said he would impose "war laws" to ensure national security. Speaking to a group of women supporters in Santiago, 241 kilometres west of Panama City, Noriega compared Tuesday's coup attempt with the failed U.S.-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion against Cuba in 1961.

The government says 10 members of the rebellious forces died in the failed coup, and that 23 others, including three members of the general staff, were arrested when troops loyal to Noriega crushed the revolt.

Noriega said U.S. troops from the southern command military installations along the Panama Canal had tried to block loyal forces from coming to his rescue.

In Washington, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said the rebels contacted U.S. military officials in Panama and requested blockade of routes leading to the headquarters building where Noriega was. But he said President George Bush did not order the routes blocked.

U.S. troops did block access routes to U.S. installations, and some of those routes also led to the coup scene. But other routes were unobstructed.

Dalai Lama award rubs salt into Chinese wounds

OSLO (R) — By giving the Nobel Peace Prize to the Dalai Lama, the Oslo Nobel Committee has trampled on raw Chinese sensitivities and made one of the most controversial choices in the 88-year-history of the award.

Peking has already faced world condemnation for the bloody suppression of the student demonstrations in Tiananmen Square. Now, Tibet's spiritual leader has been given recognition for the non-violent Buddhist example he has set his people during three decades of exile in India.

Tibet's "God-king" charged that Peking was making "a systematic effort to crush the spirit and national identity of the Tibetan people."

"Tibetans today are facing the real possibility of elimination as a people and a nation," the Dalai Lama told reporters in California, where he is attending a conference.

The Dalai Lama, now 54, fled Tibet in 1959 after an abortive uprising against Chinese troops in

which thousands were killed. He settled in India from where he has preached his message of non-violence, dressed in the saffron robes of a Buddhist monk.

He said he received encouragement from China's pro-democracy movement, crushed by troops and tanks in June.

"The Chinese students have given me great hope for the future of China and Tibet. I feel that their movement follows the tradition of Mahatma Gandhi which has deeply inspired me ever since I was a small boy," he said.

"I hope and pray that the decision to give me the Nobel Peace Prize will encourage all those who pursue the cause of peace to do so in a renewed spirit of optimism and strength."

China, which says it has ruled Tibet for centuries, describes him a political subversive. Martial law is still force in the ancient capital of Lhasa, after a major Chinese crackdown on dissent.

Wang Guisheng, counsellor at

the Chinese embassy in Oslo, said the award was an interference in Peking's affairs and hurt the Chinese people.

"Tibet's affairs are wholly and purely China's own business. The Dalai Lama is not simply a religious leader but also a political figure... who aims to divide the mother country and undermine national unity," he said.

Some of the Dalai Lama's followers said the award would boost their struggle for independence and Western diplomats in Peking said they feared it could provoke protests in Lhasa.

In New Delhi, diplomats and political analysts said it could be an irritant in relations between India and China, especially as it was announced just days before a visit to India by Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Xueqian.

The Oslo Nobel Committee denied that the award was politically motivated or intended as "a slap in the face" for Peking, but acknowledged that it could be interpreted that way.

Press leak torpedoed S. Africa talks plan

PARIS (R) — An embarrassing press leak has jeopardised a private French plan to stage the most ambitious forum yet on South Africa's internal conflict, according to diplomatic sources.

A Johannesburg daily reported Thursday the planned meeting would bring together South African cabinet ministers and the most senior members of the exiled African National Congress (ANC), the main guerrilla group fighting Pretoria.

The newspaper, Business Day, revealed the secret Tuesday, citing unnamed sources in the French Foreign Ministry.

Since then the organisers, France Libertes, a private human rights group headed by Danielle Mitterrand, the wife of the French president, have refused to answer press enquiries.

A senior French presidential source acknowledged the substance of the story by Business Day, which said invitations had been sent to South African government officials and black and white opposition leaders for the five-day meeting, from Nov. 20.

He said the meeting was still at the planning stage. The French government was not involved.

Other delegates named by Business Day would include central bank governor Chris Stals, anti-apartheid egyptian Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Allan Boesak, mining union leader Cyril Ramaphosa and Gavin Rely, chairman of Anglo American, South Africa's biggest corporation.

The ANC in Paris said it was unaware of such a meeting.

"I first heard of this from the press," said ANC representative Solly Smith.

Apart from some South African intellectuals who said they had been approached, no one else has acknowledged receiving an invitation.

The press leak looked like a personal blow to Danielle Mitterrand, who used France Libertes

in 1987 to set up a highly publicised meeting between more than 50 liberal white South Africans and senior ANC officials.

The meeting in Dakar, Senegal, outraged Pretoria authorities and South Africa's pro-government media accused the president's wife of meddling.

Diplomats said the French wanted to take advantage of the atmosphere of expectation in South Africa, fostered by the new leadership of President F.W. de Klerk.

De Klerk has promised reforms to share power with South Africa's vote-less black majority but has stayed firm to the party line of rejecting contacts with the ANC unless it denounces violence.

Premature revelation of the scope of the planned meeting would hurt the chances of officials of South Africa's ruling National Party participating, diplomats said.

"France Libertes is now very embarrassed, because people learned in the press that they were going to be invited to this meeting," an analyst familiar with the group said.

"The whole thing went off half-cock and it will be difficult to see how National Party officials would take part," he said.

Parliamentarians of the ruling party shied a platform with ANC representatives at a meeting in Bermuda in April, but Pretoria still rejects any official contact with the group it labels as terrorist.

South African analysts said anti-apartheid leaders, including Tutu and Boesak, would welcome such a forum but that the presence of government ministers appeared to be out of the question.

"There is no question of negotiating the future of South Africa in a foreign country," a South African official in Paris said, echoing a statement by Foreign Minister Pik Botha.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Estonia scraps vote rules

MOSCOW (R) — The Estonian parliament backed down in a dispute with the Kremlin Thursday, suspending clauses in a local election law that deprived thousands of Russian immigrants of the vote. Estonian radio said 172 of the 243 deputies accepted a proposal by President Arnold Ruutel to scrap provisions of the law which allowed only people who had lived in the republic for at least two years to vote. The law provoked a rash of strikes by local Russian workers after it was passed by the Estonian parliament in August. "It was decided to modify the law in view of the current political situation and, in particular, because of the threat of more strikes," a journalist at Estonian television told Reuters. The compromise, which will allow all residents to take part in local elections due on Dec. 10, appeared to be part of an attempt by Estonia's reformist leadership to steer away from conflict with Moscow over the issue. The move was attacked by Estonian nationalists who are pressing for a return to the independence enjoyed by the republic until 1940.

Riots hit Chile

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Riot police fired tear gas and water cannons Thursday at hundreds of anti-government demonstrators commemorating the anniversary of right-wing military President Augusto Pinochet's defeat in a referendum on extending his rule. The afternoon clashes in the busy downtown sent bystanders, including shoppers and office workers, running for cover. Police said at mid-afternoon that 99 protesters had been arrested, but clashes continued and reporters saw several more demonstrators being detained. There was no immediate word on any injuries. Several small columns of marchers, carrying banners and posters promoting opposition groups, converged on the edge of the city centre, but police barred most from proceeding downtown on the central Boulevard, called the Alameda. Some protesters, however, succeeded in entering the city centre and fought running skirmishes with helmeted riot police who fired tear gas grenades and employed water cannons mounted on armoured trucks to break up the groups.

Norway's labour government will quit

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland announced Friday she will resign next week rather than be ousted by a vote of parliament. Brundtland's three-year-old labour government will be replaced by a three-party non-socialist coalition headed by Jan P. Syse, head of the Conservative Party. Brundtland will step down Oct. 13, one month after having suffered heavy setbacks in a national election, said spokesman Arne Strand. "She will inform the parliament Oct. 12 and hand in the government's resignation to King Olav Friday the 13th," Strand said. Labour will go ahead with plans to present its draft 1990 national budget to the new 165-seat parliament Thursday, the day before resigning, Strand said. Syse, 58, presented a basic platform for his non-socialist minority coalition Wednesday after two weeks of delicate negotiations. The three partners are now working on distributing cabinet posts.

Jackson to host weekly show

NEW YORK (AP) — The Reverend Jesse Jackson announced Thursday that he would host a syndicated weekly talk show, starting in the fall of 1990. Though its format is not yet decided, Jackson said at a news conference that "Voices of America with Jesse Jackson" would be designed to "create access, precipitate ideas and be fair." The civil rights leader and former presidential candidate said he did not plan to compete with other talk shows, but talked of "incestuous inbreeding among the talk shows now — we must open up the window for communication." On the current lineup of talk shows, Jackson added, "fewer and fewer talk about more and more and know less and less."

UNHCR appeals for more support

GENEVA (R) — United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Jean-Pierre Hocke warned Thursday that any further cutbacks in the agency's programmes would harm some of the 15 million refugees in its care. He appealed for increased support from the international community to help find durable solutions to the plight of displaced people worldwide. The UNHCR reported in August it was short of \$65 million to carry out its planned 1989 activities. It

COLUMN

Buyer yet to take possession of 'Trises'

LONDON (R) — Australian tycoon Alan Bond has yet to take possession of Van Gogh's "Trises", the world's most expensive painting which he bought for \$49 million two years ago, auctioneers Sotheby's, said Thursday. British press reports said Sotheby's which sold the impressionist masterpiece in New York, had lent Bond half the purchase price. A Sotheby's spokeswoman confirmed that Bond took out a loan to help pay for the picture but declined to say how much. Sotheby's had a subsidiary company which made loans to auction customers, she said, and such loans never amounted to more than 50 per cent of the purchase price. The picture had gone on public display in Perth, Bond's western Australian base, but was now in secret storage under Sotheby's control. She said Bond was not behind on his repayments. "He is an excellent client," she said. A spokesman for Bond was quoted in the Independent newspaper as saying that less than half the loan was outstanding.

American designer bows out of Paris

PARIS (R) — Black designer Patrick Kelly, the only American stylist accepted by the French fashion establishment, has pulled out of this month's ready-to-wear collections because of illness. A press spokeswoman said Kelly was still recovering from an unspecified illness and would be unable to present the spring and summer collection. Kelly, who comes from Mississippi, specialises in sexy tube dresses, often decorated with bright plastic buttons, a trademark of his. He launched his first Paris collection in 1985 and is the only American belonging to the Chambre syndicale, the organisation which stages the French shows.

Turkey bans song and dance on picket lines

ANKARA (R) — The Turkish government banned strikers on Thursday from singing or dancing on picket lines and threatened to use anti-guerrilla commands in case of industrial violence. Turkey saw a sharp rise in strikes this year as workers struggled to keep wages abreast of high inflation. But Mustafa Basoglu, training secretary for the largest trade union confederation Turk-Is said there has been no major labour unrest in almost 20 years. "When Turkish labour has proved how dignified and responsible it can be, threatening them with use of troops is nothing but stirring up a hornet's nest," he told Reuters. Approved by the cabinet and published in the official gazette with immediate effect, new regulations said the authorities would hold special security forces in readiness to deal with strike-related violence. The commands troops of the para-military gendarmerie are used to combat a five-year-old separatist Kurdish insurgency in the southeast.

Hungary puts leaders on the bottle

BUDAPEST (R) — Portraits of Hungary's top four Communist leaders have appeared on beer bottle labels. The daily Nepszabasag Monday quoted a customer at a "temporarily political bar" in northwestern Győr as saying it seemed the party could only sell its leaders with beer. The party faces by mid-1990 Hungary's first multiparty elections since the communist takeover in the late 1940s.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	11	52	14 57 Cloudy
ATHENS	10	50	17 68 Cloudy
BARCELONA	26	79	34 88 Clear
BANGKOK	24	85	16 94 Clear
BUEENOS AIRES	24	75	31 86 Rain
CARACAS	21	70	35 81 Clear
CHICAGO	09	43	14 57 Clear
COPENHAGEN	08	43	12 54 Clear
FRANKFURT	04	38	16 88 Rain
GENEVA	05	41	20 86 Cloudy
HONG KONG	25	77	30 86 Clear
ISTANBUL	03	58	10 64 Cloudy
LONDON	06	46	15 69 Rain
LOS ANGELES	15	61	28 82 Cloudy
MADRID	13	55	26 82 Clear
MEXICO	26	77	45 112 Clear
MONTREAL	05	37	15 65 Rain
MOSCOW	01	34	02 58 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	23	73	37 99 Clear
NEW YORK	10	50	20 67 Cloudy
PARIS	11	52	24 75 Cloudy
ROME	11	58	16 94 Clear
SYDNEY	06	23	41 73 Clear
TOKYO	18	68	22 72 Rain
VIENNA	06	42	18 68 Clear

Maryland 'hotline' cashes on weird calls

By Robert M. Andrews
The Associated Press

ROCKVILLE, Maryland — There's a lot of strange stuff happening out there — tales of plottings, swamp monsters, maybe even dinosaurs still crashing through African jungles — and Mark Chorvinsky has opened a "strange hotline" to hear all about it.

"The world is a pretty strange place," says Chorvinsky, 35, a black-clad archivist of the bizarre and investigator of the weird who lives on in a quiet, tree-shaded street in this Washington suburb.

"Everybody knows of something strange that has happened to them, but they never talk about it," he says. "The only time it's safe to talk, it seems, is around a campfire or during Halloween."

Now they can dial the "strange hotline" at 1-900-820-

8361 to share a scary encounter with the unknown, or hear a tape of Chorvinsky describing some of his favourites. Among them are the lizard man of South Carolina, the horrific winged Jersey devil, the Menia vampire and a haunted stretch of rural Maryland highway where "the dreaded snarly yow" has been spotted by motorists.

Chorvinsky recently listened to "one of the most amazing stories I've heard" from a taped message left by an anonymous hotline caller, an Arizona woman who bought a giant cactus as a house plant.

A few days later, she was alarmed to see the cactus moving its prickly arms. She fled the house with her children just before the cactus exploded, releasing swarms of scorpions.

That's the sort of thing that sends agreeable tingles down Chorvinsky's spine and fills the pages of Strange Magazine, a

twice-a-year compendium of weird happenings that Chorvinsky founded and edits for an estimated 4,000 readers.

He's also a professional magician who performed at the White House last year, an author who is planning a biography of Merlin the Magician and a filmmaker whose movie short, "Strange Tangents," was screened at the American Film Institute, the Library of Congress and film festivals at Cannes, Berlin and Los Angeles.

"It's about a young sorcerer who tries to save her dying master with the help of her friend, a three-foot-tall talking salamander," Chorvinsky says.

To help pay the bills, he operates a science fiction and magic shop in a Rockville shopping mall where customers can satisfy their appetites for strange goods. The shelves are stuffed with dragons and wizards, crystal balls, ninja

swords, tarot cards, horror movie classics and fantasy games titled "skulls and scrap-jagot green" and — for laughs — "batwinged himbos from hell."

Although his bushy hair, beard, moustache and suit — all in black — give him a slightly fiendish look, Chorvinsky is nobody's wacko. He's a good-natured sceptic who directs a global network of tipsters and investigators who track down reports of strange phenomena for scholarly discussion in his magazine.

"We have many sceptics who read the magazine, including myself," he said in an interview. "I am sceptical but open-minded. I doubt everything but I accept the possibility of anything."

He's never seen a UFO (unidentified flying object) landing in a corn field, but knows that "the damndest things fall from

the sky," including frogs, fish, sugar crystals, ice chunks and vast cowbells spun by airborne spiders.

Mysterious sea serpents like the Loch Ness monster may be the stuff of ancient folklore, he said, or they may have existed all along as monstrous species of marine life that somehow eluded discovery by scientists.

But what about the strange booms and bangs in the night? The bizarre mirages of entire cities in the sky? The spinning wheels of light beneath the oceans? Toads encased in rock but still alive?

"The stories that really intrigue me are those that give me the greatest feeling of disquieting strangeness," Chorvinsky said. "The tales so strange they couldn't possibly be explained, the kind that give you a chill down your spine or make your hair stand on end. The sort of thing that makes you say, 'Ooooh, that's weird.'"